

# SUMERS' RESEARCH *Bulletin*



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# CONSUMERS' RESEARCH



## BULLETIN

Vol. 14 • No. 2

August 1944

### Off the Editor's Chest

THE three months preceding June 30th of this year saw a skillfully managed and vigorous publicity and lobbying campaign waged by the high officials of the Office of Price Administration and their political supporters to make a case for the importance of their work, in order to persuade Congress to extend OPA's life for another period. One angle stressed was how much money had been saved by their great work in keeping certain prices down.

One important function that the OPA organization is performing, which must be fully considered by consumers before they decide that it is their defender against rises in the cost of living, is its role in maintaining prices (holding them *up*) and restricting competition, both of which have been eagerly sought objectives of many trade associations and business bodies ever since there have been trade associations and big business. Both of these purposes, too, were reflected in the organization and working of the National Recovery Administration (NRA). The same ideology is evident in the various resale-price-maintenance laws and regulations which fix prices in such a way that dealers in certain products are prohibited by law from selling at a lower price than that named by the manufacturer. Such laws had the effect of requiring that the same price be charged for a radio set or fountain pen by a small or efficient establishment, perhaps in a low-rent section, as by a swank department store with a luxury clientele, but all failed to produce the effect that was subsequently achieved by the competition-restraining activities of the OPA.

CR pointed out in December 1943 that there was considerable evidence that the present war control measures as administered by the WPB and the OPA are turning out to be handy tools to control competition and obtain trade advantages for certain groups. There is increasing corroboration of this, and we expect to bring to our readers from time to time fresh examples, so that they may not be taken in by the high-pressure publicity that would make the OPA and other control agencies appear to be the *consumer's* friends. As in the NRA period, consumers and taxpayers, as such, are the people least thought of, if at all, in the plans and policies worked out for government control over business enterprise, and government collaboration with the larger and more powerful business and labor groups.

One of the outstanding shoe trade journals pointed out not long ago that it was difficult to satisfy the human desire for bargains under present conditions and regulations, and commented on the fact that after the last war when merchants were holding tight to their regular high prices, and sales were slow, a big New York department store had put on a 20-percent-off sale that brought in nearly a million people to the store. The example was followed throughout the country, but the result was disastrous to many concerns which had previously priced their merchandise too high and then had to drop their prices too greatly to permit a profit. But, continued the journal, "*By some good fortune and OPA controls* [planned to be continued after

*(Continued on page 22)*

**Scientific and Technical Experts and Editors:** F. J. Schlink, R. Joyce, M. G. Phillips, A. R. Greenleaf, and Charles L. Bernier. **Editorial Assistant:** Mary F. Roberts.

Symbols used to indicate sources of data and bases of ratings: A—recommended on basis of quality; AA—regarded as worthy of highest recommendation; B—intermediate with respect to quality; C—not recommended on basis of quality; cr—information from Consumers' Research's own tests or investigations; 1, 2, 3—relative prices, 1 being low, 3 high. Note that price and quality are completely differentiated in CR's listings; a quality judgment is independent of price; 43, 44—year in which test was made or information obtained or organized by the staff of Consumers' Research.

It will be advantageous if you will, whenever possible, send prompt notice of change of address at least a month before it is to take effect, accompanying your notice with statement of your old address with name in full. At least three weeks' notice must be given in any case. This rule, however, regarding long advance notice does not apply to military personnel. Changes of address for men and women in the services will gladly be handled whenever required.

★ ★ ★ For a brief cumulative index of 1944 BULLETINS preceding this issue, see page 26.

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# The Consumers' Observation Post

USED AUTOMOBILE PARTS, which have furnished a much needed source of supply, are expected to dry up as the result of the OPA's action in subjecting them to price ceilings. It appears that owners of old jalopies demand high prices for the parts they contain, since they are extremely scarce and even the prices of wrecked cars have quadrupled in the last year. Wreckers have been charging all the traffic will bear and now the OPA says "No," to them—but puts no limits on what the owners may demand for old cars.

\* \* \*

FROZEN FOOD LOCKERS in the basement of every apartment house, with weekly deliveries of frozen vegetables, fruits, meat, poultry, fish, and even frozen cooked foods is a post-war dream of the frozen food locker industry. With a freezing unit of sufficient size in the kitchen refrigerator to handle her every day supplies, the housewife would be freed of the daily chore of marketing and lugging home heavy sacks of green groceries and meats. The idea is one that is likely to catch on.

\* \* \*

WHEN YOU BUY YOUR GRASS SEED for fall planting don't be taken in by the line of a travelling salesman who wants to sell you seed that will grow only to the desired height and require no mowing, warns the efficient St. Louis Better Business Bureau. Such nicely adjusted growth just isn't possible. Probably some will recall the initiation of new boys at camp who were sent on long and fruitless searches for smoke buckets, post holes, and left-handed monkey wrenches, and see a similarity of approach in the seed salesman's method of catching customers.

\* \* \*

MALNUTRITION IN INFANTS sometimes results in stammering and other neurotic symptoms, according to Dr. Knight Dunlap, well-known authority at the University of California. The doctor considers the modern diet for infants, which includes minced liver by six months and minced beefsteak by one year, a decided improvement over the old cereals-and-strained-vegetables diet.

\* \* \*

HEADACHES are a symptom and not a disease. They constitute a warning that something is wrong and if they occur frequently, a physician should be consulted to discover just what the trouble is. Of course, even the headache cures advise this procedure, but somehow the listeners to their radio advertising appear to take the easier course and try a powder or tablet. Two cases of serious bromide intoxication from prolonged self-administration of a proprietary headache powder containing potassium bromide and acetanilid have brought forth a warning from two physicians in the Journal of the American Medical Association of dangers in the use of such products as Bromo-Seltzer, Neurosine, Pyramidon, Sedormid, and B.C. Headache Powders, to sooth the nerves of a population at war.

\* \* \*

DEHYDRATED SOUPS aren't selling very well since canned soups have been removed from rationing, reports a food trade journal. Too many inferior brands have prejudiced the consumer against all such products, is one suggested explanation. Two of the brands leading in volume of sales at present are Betty Crocker (General Mills) and Continental (Lipton).

CONVENIENTLY PACKAGED, easily shipped and stored products have been produced on a grand scale during this war to provide adequate nourishment to the armed forces and allied civilian populations. The only difficulty has been that so many of them are not good eating. Witness the tremendous quantities of dried eggs and powdered milk that are backing up in warehouses. The highly nutritious dehydrated lemonade powder that was to provide a nice cold (but unwanted) drink for soldiers overseas has been found, however, to have other uses, some of which sound like a radio comedian's gags. According to a report in a trade paper, the lemonade powder has served as baking powder, when mixed with an appropriate amount of toothpowder, or it may be used as a stove polish for field ranges, or as a lemon rinse for the blonde WACS.

\* \* \*

HEAVY RAYON HOSE is one of the most disliked utility goods of the present war. One of the dealers' nightmares is the possibility of being stuck with any sizeable quantity on their shelves when nylon and sheerer rayon hose are again available. It is now believed that the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations can be relied upon to buy up any large leftover hosiery stocks that may be available, to be shipped to the needy in the various parts of the world receiving American lend-lease and other aid.

\* \* \*

COCOA IN MILK interferes with the proper utilization of the calcium and phosphorus present, according to a report in Nutrition Reviews. Some time ago, CR reported that studies at Massachusetts State College had brought to light the fact that the addition of cocoa to milk reduced its digestibility somewhat and hastened the destruction of vitamin C. In the light of these new findings it may well be that the wartime shortage of cocoa is a blessing in disguise.

\* \* \*

SIMULATION is not a synonym for imitation, according to a recent ruling by the Federal Trade Commission. A jewelry company against which action was taken signed a stipulation that the particular jewelry they were selling was not set with simulated diamonds, but with glass imitations of diamonds.

\* \* \*

THE STRIKING PARALLEL between the character of the mother's diet and the physical condition of the infant was brought out in a recent paper by Doctors Burke, Beal, Kirkwood, and Stuart of the Harvard Medical School. They found that 56 percent of the infants from mothers whose diet was rated as good or excellent were classed as "superior" infants. Only 3 percent of the infants of mothers with good or excellent diet were classed as "poorest"; while 79 percent of infants were classed as "poorest" when their mothers' diet was rated "poor" or "very poor."

\* \* \*

HAM cured by one of the newer processes, by which the curing fluid is injected into the arteries, and the ham is then cooked at a very low temperature (around 140°F), may be more tender than hams cured by some other methods, but it should be cooked thoroughly, just as any other form of pork would be, to avoid danger from bacteria. The Chief of the New Jersey Food and Drugs Bureau warns that there are quite a number of cases of food poisonings from eating these especially prepared and so-called ready-to-eat hams, due apparently to consumers' belief that because they are tender they need not be cooked as long as usual. Ham is nowadays the chief cause of the numerous cases of food poisoning constantly being reported to health officials.

\* \* \*

THE EXCELLENCE OF THE OMNIVOROUS DIET to which North-Americans are accustomed is largely due to the superiority of animal over vegetable protein, according to Dr. William H. Adolph, former professor of bio-chemistry at Yenching University, China, who cited researches by Dr. Hsien Wu and other scientific workers who found the omnivorous diet better in terms of growth, reproduction, and performance of work. Dr. Adolph urged that Americans should not go too far in depriving themselves of animal foods in their desire to share their food supplies with other peoples of the world. Apparently U.S. farmers are now pretty well convinced that there will not be the radical changes in the American diet that government officials have proposed and urged in various articles and conferences on food problems, for soybean planting is already reported to

(The continuation of this section is on page 29)

# Safety Razor Blades



CIVILIANS are not likely to find razor blades hard to buy for the War Production Board has allocated sufficient material for manufacturers to make around 70 percent as many blades as they did in 1940 and 1941. Considering the huge numbers of men in the Army whose needs are not supplied out of 70 percent civilian production, the supply should be ample.

Razor blade manufacturers emphasize the type of steel they use in their blades, e.g., surgical chrome steel, stainless Swedish steel, watch spring steel, finest chrome steel, etc. While undoubtedly there is a difference in the quality of blades produced from different steels, the cost of the steel per blade is so small that there is no excuse for any blades being of poor quality because of use of inferior steel—though it is possible that the problems of war-time supply have made it more difficult to get steel of top quality formerly used by a few of the best makers. The finest crucible steel obtainable in this country prior to the war cost about 70 cents per pound, and more than 400 blades of regular thickness can be made from a pound of steel.

Several of the blades in the

present tests carried guarantees: A notation on the box of one brand stated that they were "guaranteed"; another stated "guaranteed to shave perfectly." Like many other so-called guarantees, these do not involve much risk to the manufacturer for even the poorest blades will usually give at least one satisfactory shave if the beard has been properly prepared and is not exceptionally tough. Few people would wish to take the time and trouble to take advantage of the "guarantee," especially since there could be wide differences of opinion between manufacturer and consumer as to what constituted shaving perfectly or even shaving moderately well.

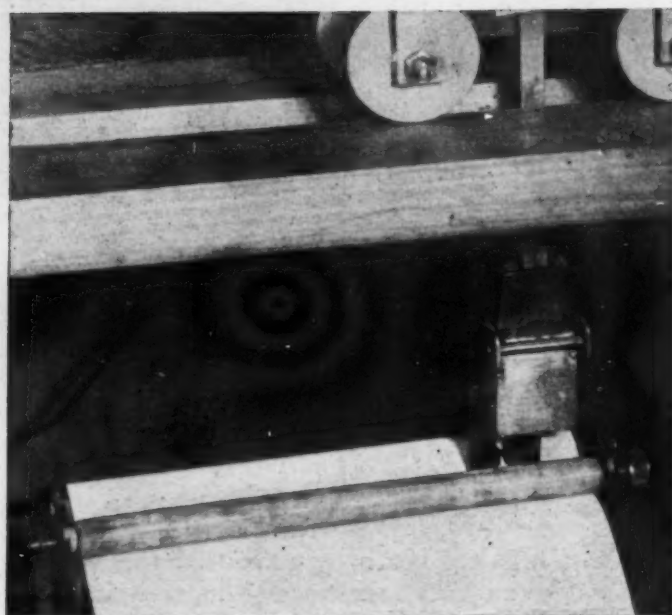
To obtain the best results from any blade it is necessary to strop it frequently. Even when the blade is new and unused, stropping will produce a marked improvement in its cutting ability, making it about 3 times as sharp and thus greatly increase the comfort of the shave. Blade sharpeners, hard to buy for the last 6 months or so, will probably be available soon in reasonable numbers; *Twinplex* stroppers are being offered again in city stores.

Commonplace though the operation of shaving is, it is

surprising how few people recognize that there is much that can be done without any trouble at all that will make the process more nearly painless and will make the blades last longer. Before applying the shaving soap it is recommended that the face be thoroughly washed with toilet soap and hot water for  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute and rinsed so as to remove dirt, sweat, and sebum. In lathering, use of a shaving brush instead of the hand is more effective. Allow at least 3 minutes (5 minutes for white or gray hairs) for the lather effectively to soften the beard. The razor should be wet with hot water and both the razor and face kept constantly wet throughout the shaving. The most generally satisfactory angle at which to hold the blade to the face is one of about  $30^\circ$ .

The stiff non-lathering creams tend to clog the razor, and there is evidence that they hasten the dulling of the razor blade; they work more slowly and are much more expensive to use than the lathering creams. On the other hand, they may be somewhat less irritating to sensitive skins, although experience with shaving soaps, particularly the round cakes (*Williams, Palmolive*, and





Detail of sharpness-tester, showing roll of paper in position for transverse cut, below, and blade in carrier, with part of rolling carriage, above.

Colgate, priced at 5c before the war), indicates that they, at least, are practically unobjectionable in this respect. Use of a non-lathering type of cream is a bit complicated, since it has been found that in practice a latherless cream works best if *applied on top of a soapy lather* and rubbed into it with the hand. This has value also in reducing the adverse effect which the non-lathering creams have on the edge of the blade.

The following ratings are based mainly on tests for initial sharpness in CR's razor blade testing instrument. When a blade had a high initial sharpness, the test was continued to determine the durability of its cutting edge. Practically all brands showed a good deal of variability in quality, and our ratings are based on the average results obtained from a number of blades in each brand. Prices given in parentheses are per blade; price ratings are on a per-edge basis.

## Gillette-Type Blades

### A. Recommended

- A.M.C. De-Luxe Thin* (Assoc. Merchandising Corp., New York City; distributed by Abraham & Straus, Fulton St., Brooklyn 1, New York) 100 for \$1.29 (1.29c). **1**
- Berkeley* (Consolidated Razor Blade Co., Inc., 26 Cornelison Ave., Jersey City, N.J.) 18 for 25c (1.39c). **1**
- Berkeley "Tissue Thin"* (Consolidated Razor Blade Co., Inc.) 10 for 25c (2.5c). **1**
- Iroskeen Beard Master*. 15 for 25c (1.7c). **1**
- Marlin* (Marlin Firearms Co., New Haven, Conn.) 18 for 25c (1.39c). **1**
- Master Cutler Thin* (Edwin Jay Inc., 19 W. 34 St., New York 1, New York) 50 for \$1 (2c). **1**
- Ring Thin* (Colton Razor Blade Co., Boston) 20 for 25c (1.25c). **1**
- Monogram Stainless Steel* (Conrad Razor Blade Co., Inc., Long Island City, N.Y.) 2 for 10c (5c). **2**
- Mystery Edge* (M.R.B. Co., Fremont, Ohio) No longer being manufactured. **2**
- Professional "Rust Resisting"* (Glider Blade Co., 38 Green St., Newark 2, N.J.) 5 for 25c (5c). **2**

### B. Intermediate

- Barbasol "Rust Resisting"* (The Bar-

- basol Co., Indianapolis) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Cadet* (Distributed by F. W. Woolworth stores). 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Cadet De Luxe Thin* (Distributed by F. W. Woolworth stores) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Clix* (Conrad Razor Blade Co., Inc., Long Island City, N.Y.) 8 for 10c (1.25c). **1**
- Clix Thin* (Conrad Razor Blade Co., Inc.) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Gillette Thin* (Gillette Safety Razor Co., Boston) 4 for 10c (2.5c). **1**
- Lightning* (Triangle Mechanical Laboratories, Brooklyn, N.Y.) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Pal Hollow Ground* (Pal Blade Co., New York, N.Y.) 4 for 10c (2.5c). **1**
- Paramount* (Colton Razor Blade Co., Boston; Woolworth stores) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Probak Junior* (Gillette Safety Razor Co.) 4 for 10c (2.5c). **1**
- St. Regis* (Distributed by McKesson & Robbins, Inc., New York, N.Y.) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Thynne* (Distributed by F. W. Woolworth stores) 7 for 10c (1.43c). **1**
- Tuxedo* (Colton Razor Blade Co.; Woolworth stores) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Cooper* (Cooper Products Corp., 35 York St., Brooklyn, N.Y.) 5 for 25c (5c). **2**
- Dublekeen* (General Blade Co., 7 W. 22 St., New York 10, N.Y.) 5 for 15c (3c). **2**
- Gillette Blue* (Gillette Safety Razor Co.) 5 for 25c (5c). **2**
- Segal* (Segal Safety Razor Corp., New York) 5 for 25c (5c). **2**
- Excaliber Stainless* (Stainless Razor Blade Corp., 907 B'way, New York 10, N.Y.) 3 for 25c (8.33c). **3**
- Kant-Rust "Stainless Steel"* (Cooper & Cooper, Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y.) 12 for \$1 (8.33c). Claimed to give 15 to 30 shaves per blade. **3**
- Personna Hollow Ground* (Personna Blade Co., New York, N.Y.) 10 for 97c (9.7c). **3**

### C. Not Recommended

- Barflex Extra Thin* (Distributed by F. W. Woolworth stores) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Famos* (Famos Co., Newark, N.J.) 5 for 10c (2c). **1**
- Shav-a-way* (Distributed by Murphy stores) 6 for 10c (1.66c). **1**
- Ultra Marine Thin* (Utility Blade & Razor Co., Cranford, N.J.) 6 for 10c (1.66c). **1**



*Permedge "Extra Longlife"* (United Drug Co., Boston) 5 for 25c (5c). 2  
*Truflex* (Gillette Safety Razor Co., Boston) 5 for 25c (5c). 2

### Blades other than Gillette Type

Single-edge blades have, with only occasional exceptions, given less satisfactory shaving performance than *Gillette*-type blades. Nearly all of them appear to have distinctly less well-finished edges when examined under the microscope, as compared with the better double-edge blades.

#### B. Intermediate

*Star Single Edge* (American Safety Razor Corp., Brooklyn, N.Y.) 4 for 10c (2.5c). 2

*Treet Single Edge* (Treet Safety Razor Corp., Brooklyn, N.Y.) 4 for 10c (2.5c). 2

*Durham Duplex* (Durham Duplex Razor Co., Mystic, Conn.) 5 for 42c (8.4c). Double-edge blade. 3

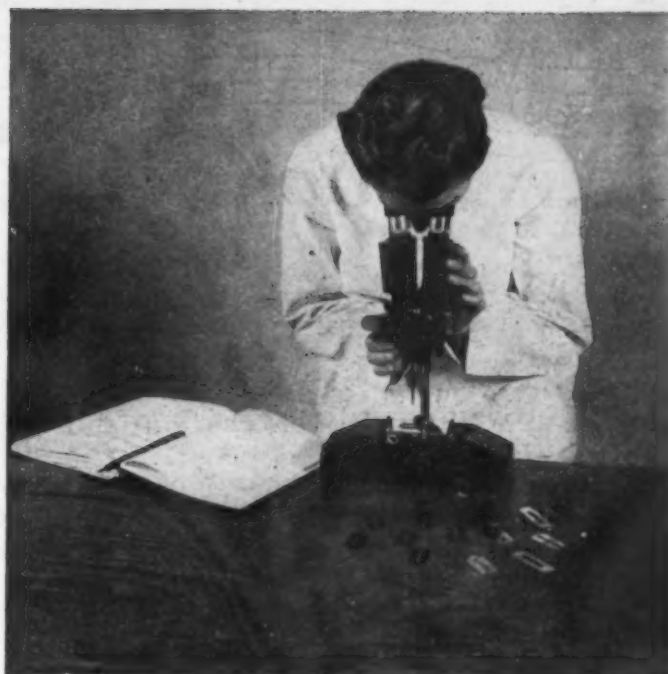
*Ever-Ready* (American Safety Razor Corp.) 5 for 32c (6.4c). 3

*Gem Micromatic Single Edge* (American Safety Razor Corp.) 5 for 25c (5c). 3

*Valet Auto Strop* (Autostrop Sales Co., Inc., Boston) 5 for 25c (5c). 3

#### C. Not Recommended

*Enders Speed* (Enders Razor Co., Inc.; Durham Duplex Razor Co., Successors, Mystic, Conn.) 5 for 25c (5c). 3

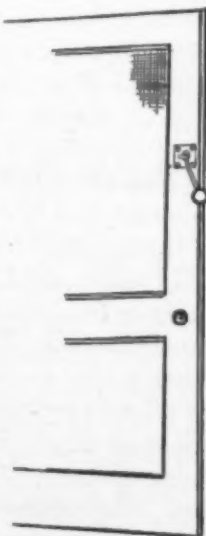


*The microscope often gives a clue to the cause of unsatisfactory shaves from inferior blades.*

## Low-Priced Screen-Door Checks

**A**N inexpensive screen door check that would stop the noisy slam, and yet permit the door to close quickly enough to prevent the entrance of insects, would be a boon to households. The most widely sold gadget for this purpose consists of a rubber ball about 1½ inches in diameter, fastened to

a small wire or rod, whose upper end is pivoted on a metal bracket screwed to the screen door. These devices (one of which is the *Sargent No Bang* Screen Door Check, selling at about 10c) are intended to be fastened to the stile of the door in such a position that



when the door closes, the ball is thrown outward by centrifugal force and thereupon catches between the door and the jamb, to absorb the impact. As the door rebounds, the ball is released and falls back to its normal (vertical) position, and then the door re-closes from a small distance without striking the ball.

Devices on this principle do not work satisfactorily. Not only do they fail to diminish the slam sufficiently, but because of the highly localized impact, they impose severe strains on the door and hinges, tending to weaken or "rack" the door and so to shorten its life.



# Books on Music

By ROWLAND W. DUNHAM

NEVER has there been such an activity in the publication of books concerning music as within the decade preceding the war. Not only has there been a wealth of such material but the quality of authorship has been on a high level. This condition has been brought about by several factors which are bringing about an interest and appreciation of musical art that is making the United States a truly musical nation. The radio with its many fine programs of orchestral, choral, and chamber music has developed a listening audience of amazing proportions. Hand in hand has come a quickened enthusiasm for phonograph records. Here we face the threat of Mr. Petrillo that future recordings will be prohibited by the musicians' union, that everyone, from broadcasting stations to the government itself, seems afraid to stand up against. A third factor is the remarkable expansion of the music program in our public schools by which few children are left without some musical experience. Fewer by far than formerly are the persons today who abjure music of the so-called "high-brow" type.

It is the purpose of this article to recommend books for the layman. This music-loving group represents many grades of musical background and experience. In order to

offer some suggestions for those without any personal musical training in singing or playing an instrument an attempt has been made to indicate the sort of reading they might well find intelligible. For the performing musical amateur, books with musical excerpts are extremely helpful. Many of the newer volumes suggest records for the illustration of discussions in the text. Included also are several guides to the purchasing of phonograph records.

General books on music intended to help in the appreciation of music are numerous. Many are excellent. Recent histories of music have proven far more readable and informative than those written in the first part of the century. Histories designed especially for the music student and professional are not included. Those which are listed usually contain first-class bibliographies of books for further reading. This book list does not cover biographies although some data of this sort may be found in many of the suggested works. Standard biographical books on music may be a subject for future consideration. There is no pretension that such a book list is at all comprehensive, but the selection is one which includes most of the most authoritative and informative works available and in general use today.

## General

*Discovering Music*, by Howard Decker McKinney and William Robert Anderson. 1934. \$3.25. American Book Co., New York, N. Y. Used in many schools as a textbook on Appreciation. Well written and not too technical. Musical illustrations. Records suggested. Fine introductory chapters and logical treatment.

*The Challenge of Listening*, by Howard Decker McKinney and William Robert Anderson. 1943. \$2.75. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N.J. One of the excellent new books for the layman.

*A Musical Companion*, edited by John Erskine. 1935. \$3. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. An abbreviated form of "The Musical Companion" (London 1934) in six volumes by various authors. Dr. Erskine has made this voluminous work available in one concise volume. A first-class selection.

*Listening to Music*, by Douglas Stuart Moore. Revised edition, 1937. \$3. W. W. Norton & Co., New York. A discussion of the elements of music for the music lover. No musical experience required.

*The Appreciation of Music*, by Roy Dickinson Welch. 1927. \$2.50. Harper & Brothers, New York. Little or no musical background necessary.

From Madrigal to Modern Music, by Douglas Stuart Moore. 1942. \$3.75. W. W. Norton & Co., New York. Brief comments in historical sequence from the Renaissance to modern times. Musical examples. More advanced than "Listening to Music." Records suggested.

Hearing Music; the art of active listening, by Theodore Mitchell Finney. 1941. \$3.50. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. Readable, non-technical. Records suggested.

The Art of Enjoying Music, by Sigmund Gottfried Spaeth. 1933. \$2.50. Whittlesey House, New York. A well-known commentator and educator organizes his ideas in a popular manner.

Why We Love Music, by Carl Emil Seashore. 1941. \$1.50. Oliver Ditson Co., Boston. A new book by the eminent psychologist. Keenly analytical.

Music: an Art and a Language, by Walter Raymond Spalding. 1939. \$2.50. Arthur P. Schmidt Co., Boston. Some musical knowledge needed. Historical, with analyses of some standard masterpieces. Is used as a text book.

Evolution of the Art of Music, by Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry; edited with additional chapters by H. C. Colles. New edition, 1930. \$3.50. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York. An older philosophical discussion of the tonal art. Reader should be an experienced amateur. One of the finest books on music ever written.

The Romantic Composers, 1930, \$2.50; Beethoven and His Forerunners, 1930, \$2.00; From

Grieg to Brahms, 1927, \$2.25. By Daniel Gregory Mason. The Macmillan Co., New York.

This Modern Music, by John Tasker Howard. 1942. \$2.50. Thomas Y. Crowell, New York. An examination of the modern idiom for the bewildered listener. For those who find the contemporary art difficult.

What to Listen for in Music, by Aaron Copland. 1939. \$2.50. Whittlesey House, New York. An excellent guide for the layman, by one of our contemporary composers. Well organized and non-technical.

### *Special Fields of Music*

Stories of the Great Operas and Their Composers, by Ernest Newman. 1935. \$1.59. Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y. A standard survey of opera by one of the most eminent English commentators. Musical examples. Composers discussed.

More Stories of Famous Operas, by Ernest Newman. 1943. \$4. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Companion to the above.

Complete Opera Book, by Gustav Kobbé. 1935. \$5. G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York. A popular book with stories of operas, 100 illustrations, 400 examples.

A Musical Guide to the Richard Wagner "Ring," by Ernest Hutcheson. 1940. \$2.75. Simon and Schuster, New York. Analytical, with many examples of leading motives. Not for a beginner, who will find sufficient information regarding Wagner in the two books just mentioned. A very fine guide.

A Guide to Great Orchestral Music, by Sigmund Gottfried Spaeth. 1943. \$1.45. Modern Library, New York. Reprint of a standard book within the understanding of any intelligent reader.

The Story of the Orchestra, by Paul Bekker. 1936. \$3.50. W. W. Norton & Co., New York. Discussion of the development of the symphony orchestra from Haydn to the present time.

Symphonies and Their Meaning, by Philip Henry Goepf. 1935. 3 volumes, \$3 each. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. An attempt to reveal the significance of various symphonies without technical difficulties. Well known to all music lovers.

Symphony Themes, by Burrows and Redmond. 1942. \$2.50. Simon and Schuster, New York. Nearly 1200 principal themes from a hundred of the symphonies of all schools. Recordings and bibliography.

The Standard Concert Guide, by George Putnam Upton and Felix Borowski. 1937. 98c. Republished by Blue Ribbon Books, New York. A revision of a well-regarded review of over 400 compositions.

### *Histories of Music*

Music in History; the evolution of an art, by Howard Decker McKinney and William Robert Anderson. 1940. \$4.50. American Book Co., New York. A magnificent book, beautifully illustrated, well written, not too technical. Appraisals generally well-considered.

History of Music, by Theodore Mitchell Finney. 1935. \$3.75. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. Used in many universities. Well written. Num-



erous examples. Records suggested.

The Story of Music, by Paul Bekker. 1927. \$3.50. W. W. Norton & Co., New York. Originally given as 20 radio lectures, some years ago. Readable, no musical examples.

Music through the Ages, by Marion Bauer and Ethel Rose Peyser. 1932. Students' edition, \$2.80. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Narrative style, excellent for layman. Frequently used in high schools.

A History of Musical Thought, by Donald Nivison Ferguson. 1935. \$5. F. S. Crofts & Co., New York. One of the standard new treatises, well written, with recordings suggested.

A Short History of Music, by Donald Nivison Ferguson. 1943. \$4.50. F. S. Crofts & Co. A condensed revision of the preceding.

Music, History, and Ideas, by Hugo Leichtentritt. 1938. \$3.50. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. An integration of music, sociology, art, and general culture. More advanced than the preceding books.

Our American Music, by John Tasker Howard. Revised edition, 1939. \$3.50. Thomas Y. Crowell, New York. An excellent account of 300 years of music in this country.

### **Recorded Music Guides**

The Record Book, by David Hall. A guide to phonograph records with criticisms. \$4.95. Smith & Durrell, New York.

The Gramophone Shop Encyclopedia of Recorded Music, edited by George Clark Leslie. 1942. \$3.95. Simon and

Schuster. Record list without comments. Includes the most worth-while records by serious composers up to 1942. Excellent.

A Guide to Recorded Music, by Irving Kolodin. 1941. \$3. Doubleday Doran & Co., New York. Discriminating comments, valuable to the record buyer.

### **Books on Music for High School Students**

History Sings; Backgrounds of American Music, by Hazel Gertrude Kinscella. 1940. \$1.50. University Publishing Co., New York.

Americans and Their Songs, by Frank Luther. 1942. \$2.75. Harper & Brothers, New York.

Complete Book of the Great Musicians, by Percy Alfred Scholes and Will Earhart. 1931. \$3. Oxford University Press, New York.

### **Junior High School Students**

How Man Made Music, by Fannie Rebecca Buchanan. 1941. \$2. Follett Publishing Co., Chicago.

Music and Musicians, by Virginia Lynch and E. V. Hamilton. 1939. \$1.20. Allyn and Bacon, New York.

### **Children**

Once-Upon-A-Time Stories of the Great Music Masters, for young pianists, by Grace Elizabeth Robinson. 1941. \$1. Theodore Presser Co., Philadelphia.

How Man Made Music, by Fannie Rebecca Buchanan. 1941. \$2. Follett Pub. Co., Chicago.

Little Life Stories of the Great Masters, by Mary M. Schmitz. 1925. 60c. Theodore Presser Co., Philadelphia.

Child's Book of Famous Composers, by Gladys Burch and H. L. Ripperger Wolcott. 1939. \$1.50. A. S. Barnes & Co., Inc., New York.

Music Stories for Girls and Boys, by Donzella Cross. 1926. 88c. Educational Music Bureau, Inc., 30 E. Adams, Chicago 3.

Operas Every Child Should Know, by Mary Schell Bacon. 1940. \$1. Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., New York.

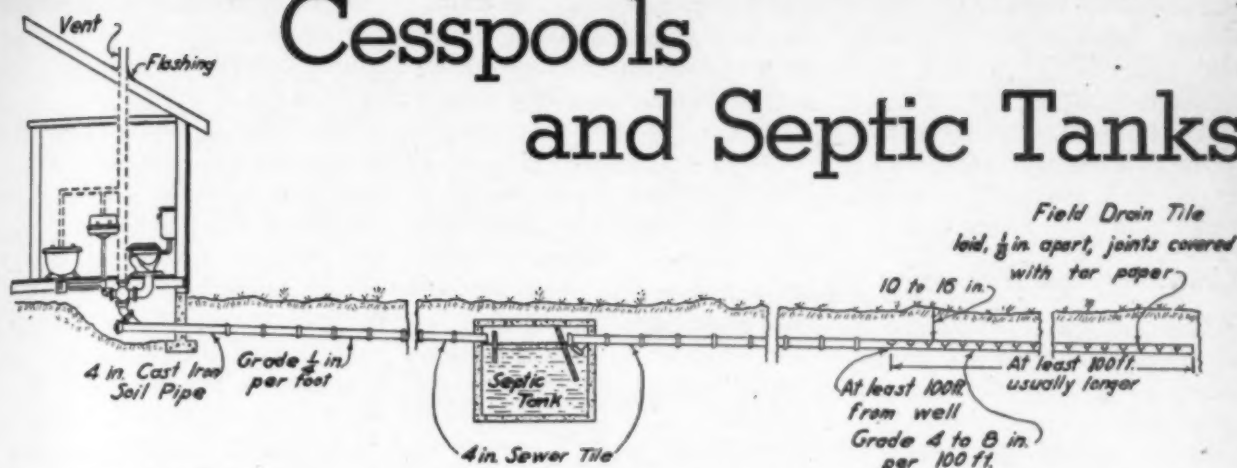
*Buy More U. S.*

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# Cesspools and Septic Tanks



## Chemicals Are Not the Answer

MANY consumers who have trouble with the operation of septic tanks or cesspools believe that they can solve their problem by buying a chemical represented to act as a remedy for clogging or overflowing. These chemicals are supposed to be particularly valuable in case of a coating of grease on the wall of a cesspool or the failure of the normal biologic action to proceed in breaking down the solid substances in the septic tank.

The cesspool, as the New Hampshire Health News in a recent issue points out, is a crude form of septic tank, and the same bacterial or digestive action on the sewage occurs in both, although much more efficiently in the septic tank. The chemicals which are sometimes added can prevent or seriously retard this action.

Clogging of a cesspool or of the drainage system of a septic tank is more of a problem in tight or clayey soil, whereas in gravelly or sandy soil, the fluids are usually successfully dissipated unless the discharge into the tank is too great.

It is the opinion of the experts that the addition of alkali (which the septic tank condi-

tioners consist of) cannot do much more than temporarily relieve the situation. "Occasional simple pumping or dipping out, with brushing off of the walls (which should be done anyway), is likely to be much more effective than any chemical treatment, the effect of which latter could be the creation of a soil block outside of the cesspool."

The discussion continues to explain that if the "cesspool is of adequate capacity and the soil is porous," there should be no need of a chemical. If they are not, the commercial chemicals will not be of use.

Unfortunately, the life of a cesspool is not indefinite. If the cesspool does last for a very long period, it is safe perhaps to assume that it has not provided proper strainer action. If the outflow is unimpeded by strainer action, due to high porosity of the surrounding soils (coarse gravel, glacial drift, or limestone rock seams), then the cesspool is not doing the work it is designed to do, and safety of surrounding wells is being jeopardized.

If conditions are not correct, a cesspool installation will work either for a short period or not at all.

## Grease and Soap May Be a Problem

A common difficulty, as pointed out in an earlier BULLETIN, is with an excessive amount of grease entering the tank. The installation of a grease separator or trap will often be necessary, particularly where the amount of dishwashing and dishwater is great. With restricted dishwashing or with small families, the trap may not be required. To help prevent grease accumulation, it will also be useful to scrape excess food, particularly fats, from dishes before washing.

Laundry water is a problem because it is both soapy and large in amount, and it would be advisable, if practicable, to allow this to be carried away by a pipe feeding out onto the surface of the ground rather than into the cesspool.

The New Hampshire Bulletin points out that sometimes when there is chronic clogging of the discharge pipe, the difficulty may be that the outlet is too near the top, so that the exit is plugged by the grease which forms on the liquid contents. Large flows of water which come from a leaking faucet or toilet fixture or from roof drainage may also cause difficulty; also the pouring into

the sewage system of any caustics or other strong chemicals or disinfectants, as they may interfere with the bacterial action. Lime, however, has some value as an addition to the contents of a cesspool or septic tank, as will be noted later.

### **Lime May Have Its Uses**

Cesspool and septic tank conditioning chemicals are usually made of strong alkalis. One that was recently tested was sold for the very high price of \$14.50 per gross of half-pound tins and the directions called for the use of 12 lb. of the material over the period of 24 days, or a total of \$2.40 worth. This one was found on analysis to consist of about 25% lime, 65% chalk, 10% cornstarch. A little moth flakes were added to the product to furnish an odor, and also some dye to make it look like something "different." These ingredients, except the lime, could do no conceivable good toward the clearing of the septic tank, and would, if they had any effect at all, seem to be disadvantageous. According to a New Jersey Experiment Station Bulletin, by E. R. Gross, "Periodic doses of lime help in keeping the drain pipes clean, improve the septic action in the tank and speed up absorption in the soil," but lime can be bought in sacks from a builders' supply dealer at 8/10 (0.8) cent a pound, instead of 20c from the packager of chemical mixtures.

According to work done at New Jersey State College of Agriculture, by Dr. Willem Rudolfs, of the Water and Sewage Research Laboratories, lime has value in adjusting the normal household sewage to a slightly greater degree of alkalinity, which is favorable to the most desirable type of bac-

terial action within the tank. There is also a curdling effect on fat particles, the lime entering into combinations which form a soapy curd that washes through and helps keep pipes clean. A New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin (Circular 381) which recommends use of lime advises that it be used in the proportion of 1 or 2 pounds of hydrated lime in a gallon of water, this mixture being used to flush the kitchen sink, a lavatory, or a toilet once every two or three weeks. The dose is applied all in one fixture, with the most attention to the kitchen sink since it is the chief source of fats. (The slaked lime, about one or two pounds at a time, should be swirled to a suspension in a pail of water and then dumped down the fixture.)

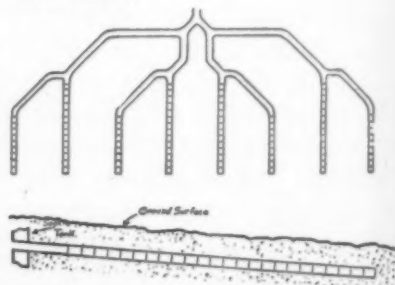
### **Prolonging Life of a Cesspool**

Agricultural Engineer Krueger of N.J. State College of Agriculture, who has kindly contributed valuable information on the question, makes the interesting suggestion that "a cesspool which becomes inoperative due to surface sealing of the interior can be used as the first chamber of a septic tank system by digging another cesspool alongside, with a standard depressed outlet feeding the clearer effluent from the first into the second for soil disposal only, until it in turn can no longer carry the load because of surface sealing. Then the system can be extended and given an additional lease on life by installing standard tile disposal beds and discharging with a submerged outlet again from the second unit. This procedure is an advantage where cesspools have already been constructed and space for sewage disposal is limited."

(This will be true in many installations; the method, of course, affords a saving of cost besides.)

Mr. Krueger makes the further interesting and important suggestion that "the many-branched liquid disposal layout usually recommended is open to question, since it is unlikely that the flow will be uniformly divided between the branches. The result is that each favored branch becomes waterlogged, preventing oxidation, and the system progressively fails. A better plan is one long tile line into which the effluent passes. If the amount to be handled is too much for a tile line in a single stretch, two lines can be installed with a diversion gate between them so as to alternate from one to the other at weekly intervals."

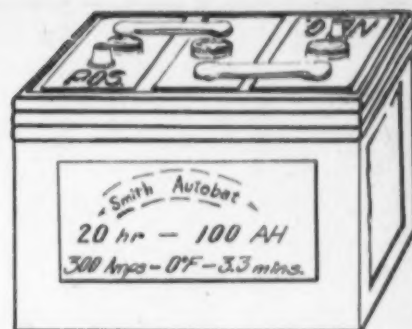
Except as noted, chemicals are not needed for cleaning or to produce or stimulate the bacterial action in a septic tank or cesspool. Nor should lye or other strong chemicals be used in cleaning the plumbing or pipes connected to a private septic tank system, as such chemicals will tend to kill the bacterial action required for successful sewage treatment in the tank.



The simple "drainage-field" arrangement of the lower picture may be preferable, New Jersey experts hold, to the more usual branching arrangement above. A slope of about 4 to 8 inches per 100 feet of pipe is common.

NOTE: The diagram at the head of this article is from a University of Missouri Bulletin.

# Automobile Storage Batteries



IN ORDER TO purchase a battery intelligently the consumer should know certain fundamental facts concerning battery characteristics and performance. It is very important that the fundamental data concerning battery capacity should be *permanently and legibly marked on the battery case*, not merely on a sticker or label attached to it. In no other way can the consumer be sure that he is buying a battery of the proper ampere-hour capacity to meet his requirements, since he cannot depend upon—and usually perhaps would not be able correctly to interpret—the information which is given to him in dealers' data sheets and catalogues.

It will be wise when practicable to avoid purchase of any battery regarding which specific information as outlined below is not available in clear and unequivocal form:

*Smith Autobat*, Model 3 H, 15 plates per cell [or 45 plates total]

Capacity by SAE test methods:

100 ampere-hours at 20 hour rate

3.3 minutes 4.2 volts at 300 amps, 0°F.

The 20 hour rating expressed

in ampere-hours gives a measure of the ability of the battery to supply the lights of the car for a considerable period, for example, a 100-ampere-hour rating means that when fully charged and at a temperature of 80°F, the battery will discharge  $100 \div 20$  or 5 amperes for a period of 20 hours (5 amperes for 20 hours = 100 ampere-hours) before the voltage drops below 5.25 (1.75 volts per cell).

The rating of 300 amperes at 0°F is an indication of the ability of the battery to crank the engine powerfully and for a considerable period when battery and engine are at a low temperature (on which occasions the battery is at a double disadvantage, one due to its own decreased capacity when cold, and another due to the much greater effort required to crank an engine when the oil is stiffened with cold). Thus 3.3 minutes, 4.2 volts at 300 amperes at 0°F means that the battery will discharge 300 amperes for 3.3 minutes at 0°F, with an initial voltage of not less than 4.2 and a final voltage after 3.3 minutes of not less than 3.

Some batteries may also carry a 20 minute rating, e.g., 120 amperes for 20 minutes. This

rating is likely to confuse the layman, who will assume that it represents a battery of exceptional capacity, with 120 ampere-hour rating (as against the usual 100). Actually it measures merely the battery's cranking ability when warm (80°), and is thus of no particular value to the average user.

Many manufacturers fail to mark clearly and permanently the polarity of the terminals; some merely paint the positive terminal red, some mark the soft lead with a cross. Neither of these methods is permanently satisfactory. The best method, followed by a few manufacturers, is to have the letters POS heavily embossed on the case or cover at the positive end. If a battery is not clearly and permanently marked in such a manner when purchased, much future trouble can be eliminated if the consumer applies a prominent and permanent marking himself, taking care not to crack the case. If the battery terminals happen not to be marked, measure the tops of the terminals with a pair of calipers. The terminal having the larger diameter will be the positive (usually about 1/16 in. larger in diameter than the negative).

The number and size of the





Arrangement of apparatus for the high-rate discharge test with battery pre-cooled to 0°F. The battery was removed from refrigeration chamber (located just to the left of the picture), and the heavy-current load immediately applied. Time and voltage were read at short intervals as the battery voltage dropped rapidly under the load.

plates used in a battery and the amount of acid present determine its capacity, and the battery's ability to start the engine under difficult conditions is approximately proportional to the area of its plates. Thus big batteries (provided the bigness is not just in the case, for appearance's sake) are usually better than small batteries. Very cheap batteries are produced at the cost of skimping of size and materials, and unless for a temporary and non-vital purpose, purchase of such batteries and all batteries of less than 100 ampere-hour capacity can rarely be recommended. (An exception may be made for a car which is to be used only in summer months or in a warm climate; when a battery is not subjected to the heavy load of cold-weather starting, a somewhat smaller capacity will serve.)

Production of replacement batteries seems not to have been seriously restricted by government authorities. On the other hand, this does not warrant any failure of consumers to take every step to extend the life of their present batteries as long as possible. This can be done by having the specific gravity checked frequently with a hydrometer and having a battery charged whenever its specific gravity falls to or below 1.210. Frequent overcharging should be avoided and the level of the liquid carefully maintained by addition of distilled water to a point about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch but not over  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch above the plates.

There is no possibility of predicting the life of a storage battery in any given type of service from any laboratory test that can be completed within a short enough time to be of help

to the consumer, but tests such as have been used by CR do give very satisfactory means of distinguishing excellent batteries from good ones and good ones from poor ones. It is believed that the most practical basis upon which to judge batteries to be used by people living in parts of the country where there is much cold weather is a low-temperature-heavy-current-discharge test.

On the high rate discharge test at 0°F, the 14 batteries tested fell into three distinct groups. The batteries rated A are those which gave the best performance in this test. All batteries listed were three-cell and were of 100 ampere-hour manufacturer's rating unless otherwise noted. When comment does not appear on the marking of the terminals, the method used for indicating polarity was considered unsatisfactory or inadequate.

NOTE: The batteries cataloged in the current Sears, Roebuck catalog have cases that are slightly higher and carry a guarantee six months shorter than those recently listed by Sears and reported in this article.

#### A. Recommended

*Kwik-Start*, Montgomery Ward's No. 61—164F. \$8.25 prepaid. 15 plate. Polarity adequately marked. Performance of this battery on test was one of the two best. 2

*Winter King*, Montgomery Ward's No. 61—181F. \$7.65 prepaid. 17 plate. Polarity adequately marked. 2

*Goodrich Standard* (B. F. Goodrich Co., Akron, Ohio) \$10.95. 15 plate. Polarity adequately marked, but important time, temperature, discharge data were lacking. Performance of this battery on test was one of the two best. 3

*Prest-o-lite Mercury M2A-17* (Prest-o-lite Battery Co., Inc., Indianapolis) \$11.45. 17 plate. Lacked all basic information on case. 3



## B. Intermediate

The following B-rated batteries were somewhat inferior to the A-rated batteries on the high rate discharge at 0°F, but were in a class superior to the C-rated batteries. *Gold Medal Powermaster*, *Delco*, and *Gold Medal Hi-Power* were somewhat better than the remaining three in the group.

*Gold Medal Powermaster*, Sears-Roebuck's No. 28—60VF. \$5.04 plus freight. 17 plate. Polarity adequately marked, but important time, temperature, discharge data were lacking. This battery appears to be the same as the Sears retail store battery sold under the brand *Cross Country*. 1

*Gold Medal Hi-Power*, Sears-Roebuck's No. 28—23F. \$6.75 plus freight. 17 plate. Polarity adequately marked, but important time, temperature, discharge data were lacking. This battery appears to be the same as *Cross Country Heavy Duty* sold in Sears retail stores. 2

*Delco* (Delco-Remy Div., General Motors Corp., Anderson, Ind.) \$11.60. 17 plate. Polarity adequately marked. 3

*Exide Sure Start 171S* (Electric Storage Battery Co., Philadelphia 32) \$11.95. 17 plate. 3

*Willard SW-BH-100* (Willard Storage Battery Co., Cleveland; sold by Montgomery Ward, Cat. No. 61—194F) \$11.95 prepaid. 15 plate. Polarity adequately marked. 3

The following battery, it should be

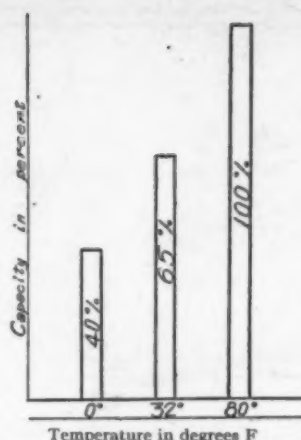


Figure 1—Effect of temperature upon cranking power available from fully charged automobile battery.

noted, is not competitive strictly with other batteries in this group since its rating was 80 ampere-hours instead of 100. It would thus not be as desirable as other B-rated batteries for hard service; but might be a satisfactory buy for use in a southern state where cold-weather starting is not a problem.

*Commander*, Montgomery Ward's No. 61—40F. \$4.59 prepaid. 13 plate. 80 ampere-hour rating. Polarity adequately marked. 1

## C. Not Recommended

On the cases of all the following batteries specifications giving ampere-hour capacity and other basic time, temperature, and discharge data were lacking. All four of these batteries, two low-priced, and two among the high-priced

batteries, were found to be inferior to the previously listed batteries in performance on test.

*Gold Medal Century*, Sears-Roebuck's No. 28—11F. \$3.90 plus freight. 13 plate. 80 ampere-hour rating. Polarity adequately marked. 1

*Gold Medal Emblem*, Sears-Roebuck's No. 28—52F. \$4.65 plus freight. 15 plate. 90 ampere-hour rating. Polarity adequately marked. This battery appears to be the same as *Powermax* sold in retail stores. 1

*Gates No. 10A Super Power* (The Gates Rubber Co., Denver 17) \$13.95. 17 plate. 120 ampere-hour rating. Though rated at 120 ampere-hours, this battery showed poorer capacity than a number rated at 100. 3

*Norwalk*, No. 17NE (Norwalk Tire & Rubber Co., Norwalk, Conn.) \$9.75. 15 plate. 90 ampere-hour rating. 3

## Valuable Reference Material

AN exceptional compendium of useful up-to-date information for anyone interested in storage batteries and their care, presented simply and clearly, is the *Storage Battery Technical Service Manual* (40 pages, many fine illustrations). 25c postpaid, from the Association of American Battery Manufacturers, 2706 First-Central Tower, Akron, Ohio.

THE cost of vitamin C in foods as obtained from different foods has been calculated and reported in a recent Bulletin from Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at the A. and M. College of Texas. In the spring when this study was made, cabbage proved to be the cheapest source of vitamin C, followed in order by turnip greens, rutabagas, mustard greens, and spinach. In this group of sources, the cost of 75 milligrams of vitamin C runs

## Vitamins A and C—Relative Costs in Common Foods

from about 1/2 cent to 2 1/2 cents. Fruit sources of vitamin C (including oranges and tomatoes) are in a category costing from 10 cents to 83.8 cents, with limes the most expensive source calculated. Lettuce, though widely used as a raw green vegetable, and much recom-

mended by writers on nutritional topics, is a rather expensive source of both vitamin C and carotene.

The cheapest common sources of carotene (vegetable precursor of vitamin A) were found to be carrots, sweet potatoes, spinach. Costs per 3000 micrograms of carotene ranged from the low figure of 1.3 cents for carrots to 14 cents for butter and margarine, to 47 cents for English peas, 82 cents for lettuce, 88 cents for cabbage.

# Inks

Tested for a "Writing" People

THE normal requirements for a good ink are conflicting. It is impossible to find any ink on the market that will give the writer everything he wants—intense, clean, even black writing, free from spreading or diffusing through the paper; a high degree of resistance to washing off with water and to mechanical and chemical erasure; free flow in a fountain pen; absence of corrosive action on steel pens; and resistance to fading in artificial light and sunlight. Inks found to have the most favorable properties in some respects are unfavorable in others. An ink which has the desirable properties in the highest degree may have the very serious fault of badly clogging a fountain pen; indeed, an ink which flows very freely in a pen is likely to be one which gives poor performance in respect to permanence and resistance to erasure. Thus, even with the best of inks, one must accept some degree of compromise.

One high-priced ink which has recently been widely featured in advertising is the *Parker 51*, which the manufacturer stresses as especially suited for use in *Parker* fountain pens of the same brand name. This ink is alleged to dry almost instantly, requiring no use of a blotter. The new *Parker* ink is not the first-class or epoch-

making new ink it is asserted to be, but only a fair one. Its principal defect is perhaps that both the blue and black 51 inks fade. The inks have another property in an unusual degree, that of "striking through" the paper, even paper of the best grades, more than the best ink, so that there is more than normal interference with writing that may appear on the other side of the sheet.

Many people like to use one of the clear-tint or dye inks (usually brown, green, or blue) because of the apparent freer ink flow in fountain pens as compared with the blue-black or permanent inks. These dye

inks, and the black dye inks, which are quickly distinguished by the ease with which they may be washed off with water or bleached out with a laundry bleach such as *Chlorox* or *Oxol*, give a poor account of themselves in several chemical tests and sometimes on light tests.

Indeed, *Carter's Sunset Green* ink practically disappeared in two months of exposure to daylight and sunlight behind glass. Several of the popular dye inks were almost entirely eradicated from the paper when subjected to various chemical erasure tests, and three of this type had outstandingly poor resistance to water, to denatured alcohol, and solutions of caustic alkali and sodium hypochlorite.

The permanent blue-black inks (formerly called gallotanate inks when tannic acid was a chief ingredient) will become dark (a deep purplish brown or black) in a few seconds when exposed while still wet, on the surface of paper, to the fumes

Exposed Unexposed

*Parker 51 India Black*

*Parker 51 Tunis Blue*

Sample of writing with  
*Parker Tunis Blue*

Original Government Standard  
Copying and Record Ink

New Government Writing Ink (Gallic  
and Tartaric Acid formula)

*Carter's Sunset Green*



Illustrations showing fading due to poor light resistance, characteristic of typical modern inks as contrasted with standard government inks. Left half of each sample exposed to winter sunlight and daylight for several weeks.

of a few drops of ammonia in a glass. A highly calendered paper of a type much used for high-grade half-tone printing (containing calcium carbonate) reacts with the same effect upon ink lines made with a pen, and affords another convenient test medium. The writing of ordinary dye ink does not change its color on this paper. Writing with a good permanent ink changes in a few seconds to black or nearly black, and the darker the shade the better the ink is likely to be from the standpoint of permanency.

Of the commercial inks tested, the following would rate as best, in the order named, in their resistance to erasure by various chemical agents:

*LePage's Blue-Black Ink*

*Woolworth Smooth Writing Blue-Black Ink*

*Signet Blue Black Ink* (a LePage brand)

*Waterman's Ideal Ink—Permanent Jet Black*

*Stafford's fountain pen Ink—Blue-Black Permanent*

The best available ink, and one that meets the most of the many requirements, is the government writing ink, the formula for which has been given in the past in CONSUMERS' RESEARCH BULLETINS. An ink very similar to this has been used in federal and other government departments since the 1890's. Owing no doubt to shortages or high price of certain chemicals, the government ink formulas were revised some time ago. The new formula does not call for the use of tannic acid (tartaric acid is substituted). The new ink is less resistant to certain chemicals. Its formula is:

Gallic acid crystals. . . . . 10.0 grams  
Ferrous sulfate crystals. . 15.0 "  
Tartaric acid. . . . . 1.0 "

BRAND OF INK	RESISTANCE TO CHEMICALS			
	1	2	3	4
	Water	Soap Solution	Bleach Solution (Sodium Hypochlorite)	Resistance to Light Fading
<i>LePage's Blue-Black</i>	a	a	a	a
<i>Woolworth Smooth Writing Blue-Black</i>	a	a	a	a
<i>Signet Blue Black*</i>	a	a	a	a
<i>Waterman's Ideal Permanent Jet Black</i>	a	a	a	a
<i>Stafford's fountain pen, Blue-Black Permanent* **</i>	a	b	a	a
<i>Waterman's Ideal Permanent Blue Black**</i>	a	a	b	a
<i>Carter's Midnight Blue-Black Permanent Ryto for V...—Mail</i>	a	b	b	b
<i>Parker Quink Permanent Blue-Black</i>	a	c	b	b
<i>Continental Blue Black Permanent Fountain Pen* **</i>	a	c	a	a
<i>Parker Quink Permanent Blue Black, contains "20p-x"</i>	a	c	b	b
<i>Parker "51" *</i>				
<i>India Black</i>	a	b	a	b
<i>Tunis Blue</i>	a	b	b	b
<i>Chemopure Skrip, Sheaffer's Permanent Jet Black</i>	a	a	c	b
<i>Skrip, Sheaffer's V-Black For V...— Mail</i>	a	a	c	b
<i>Chemopure Skrip, Sheaffer's Permanent Blue Black</i>	a	a	c	b
<i>Carter's Midnight Black Permanent for V...— Mail</i>	a	c	b	a
<i>Carter's Midnight Black Permanent Kongo</i>	a	c	b	a
<i>Carter's Sunset Green</i>	c	c	c	c
<i>Carter's Harvest Brown</i>	c	c	b	a
<i>Carter's Sunset Brown</i>	c	c	c	a
<i>Waterman's Autec Brown</i>	c	c	c	c

#### Explanation of Symbols

a—Considered satisfactory.

b—Showed considerable fading or deterioration of color.

c—Very poor, no mark, or only a trace being left.

\* Considerable sediment found.

\*\* Found to be more corrosive than most others to steel pens. As inks are today used chiefly in fountain pens, this factor is not nearly so important as formerly.

Soluble Blue, dye identified by dye chemists as C.I.707 (Sch.539)..... 3.5 grams  
Dissolve in water to make a volume of 1 liter [1-1/20 (1.05) quarts].

Ingredients, weighed and measured, ready to add to a quart of water can be purchased

by mail for 40 cents postpaid from the Warren County Drug Store, Washington, N. J. For good keeping qualities, the water should be added to the ingredients only when the ink is needed, and any considerable quantity of ink that is to be



kept should be stored in a bottle or bottles filled almost to the bottom of the cork or stopper.

The old-style government inks gave good performance in all tests except with hydrochloric acid and test 3 (see the chart on page 17). The new-style government ink using tartaric acid instead of tannic acid is not quite up to the standard of the older ink containing tannic acid but showed good performance except in tests 2 and

3, and resistance to hydrochloric acid and caustic alkali.

Initial color and color intensity were judged, in which all of the inks appeared satisfactory. Thirteen of the inks showed only fair to poor resistance to removal by denatured alcohol. All inks showed poor results on the hydrochloric acid test except *Carter's Harvest Brown* and the four *Parker* brands, which performed relatively well in this test. On the caustic alkali test,

all the inks in the table down to and including the *Parker "51"*, except *Carter's Midnight Blue-Black Permanent Rylo for V...—Mail*, were satisfactory.

The major findings of the test are presented in the accompanying compact chart. The inks are arranged approximately in the order of their relative performance in the test, with the better inks nearer the top of the table.

## Face Powder—

What Brand Do You Powder Your Nose With?

**I**F we are to believe the advertisements, women use face powder to give face, throat, and shoulders "the fragile, romantic look," to keep looking "delightfully fresh for hours and hours," or "to blend away fatigue lines, give a delicate, pearly look that is enchanting, indescribable." As a matter of fact, face powder has such a universal and widespread vogue both on the dressing table and in the compact for the pocketbook that most women probably do not stop to analyze why they use it.

Since the manufacturers are more realistic than their advertising men who work on a basis of moonbeams and romance, we can get a pretty

good idea from books and magazines written for trade use, of just what, in practical terms, face powder is expected to do. One of the first requirements is that a face powder give coverage, sometimes referred to as light, medium, and heavy coverage, what the paint trade calls hiding power—a product's ability to hide the color or texture of the object to which it is applied. Three ingredients of typical face powder formulas that give covering quality are colloidal kaolin, titanium dioxide, and zinc oxide. Precipitated chalk, magnesium carbonate, magnesium or zinc stearate may be added to give adhesive qualities so that the powder will stick or cling to

the face. Very fine precipitated chalk is reported to give the peach-like bloom that was formerly achieved by using starch of one sort or another. Starches such as rice, wheat, corn, or orris root are being eliminated by many manufacturers because they are substances that may cause irritation or an allergic reaction.

The bulk of the formula is customarily talc, which provides "slip" so that the powder may be evenly distributed and not stick to the spot to which it is first applied. The highest grade of talc is used for the best-quality face powders. Normally the sources of supply have been France and Italy, but in recent years one very



good source of high-grade talc has been a California mine. Since high-grade talc is also used in making a number of military ceramics and the very highest quality is required for making the porcelain used in sparkplugs, it was necessary to find further sources of supply when the war cut off our imports. Mines that can produce the desired quality have been located in California, Montana, Nevada, and New Mexico.

Face powder, as CR has noted from time to time, is an entirely safe cosmetic. The days when the dangerous metal compound, white lead, was one of its constituents are ancient history and gone forever in this country. The occasional difficulty reported of allergic reaction to one of the ingredients is usually due to the presence of starch, although there is one case on record that was believed to have been caused by the presence of a zinc compound. As a rule such difficulties are cleared up by a shift to another brand of powder.

Since face powders are entirely safe for the most part, women may feel quite free to choose whatever brand pleases their fancy with its perfume, color, fancy package, or price. However, to discover whether wartime conditions of manufacture had brought about any deterioration of quality, CR had 21 well-known brands examined by a competent petrologist for the quality of the mineral ingredients used, their freedom from undesirable mineral impurities and starch. The expert commented that the entire group was on the average freer from impurities and starches than those which he had examined in 1941. Apparently manufacturers have

taken greater pains in processing and purifying raw ingredients in spite of wartime problems and shortages. There were no brands at all in the present test so poor in quality that they merited a *C. Not Recommended* rating. Prices given do not include tax. All powders were free from starch except as noted.

#### A. Recommended

*Chiffon Face Powder* (Distributed by Primrose House, Inc., 111 Eighth Ave., New York 11) 10.4 grams, 10c. Beige.

*Coty "Air Spun" Poudre de Beauté* (Coty, Inc., 714 Fifth Ave., New York 19) 74 grams, \$1. Rachel No. 2.

*Evening in Paris* (Bourjois Sales Corp., 35 W. 34, New York 1) 75 grams, \$1. Rachel.

*Lady Esther* (Lady Esther, Ltd., 7171 W. 65, Chicago 38) 12 grams, 10c. Rose brunette.

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The following brands were considered to be slightly lower in the quality of their mineral ingredients than the brands immediately preceding, although still meriting an *A. Recommended* rating.

*Barbara Gould* (Barbara Gould, Inc., 35 W. 34, New York 1) 69 grams, \$1. Rachel No. 2.

*Revlon Wind-Milled Face Powder* (Revlon Products Corp., 125 W. 45, New York 19) 63 grams, 60c. Misty Coral.

*Helena Rubinstein Apple Blossom Complexion Powder* (Distributed by Helena Rubinstein, Inc., 715 Fifth Ave., New York 17) 59 grams, \$1. New Rachel, No. 2.

*Yardley Bond Street English Complexion Powder* (Yardley & Co., Ltd., 620 Fifth Ave., New York 20) 54 grams, \$1. Medium Rachel.

#### B. Intermediate

*Dermetics* (Distributed by Dermetics, Inc., 630 Fifth Ave., New York 16) 25 grams, 75c. Suntan.

*Dorothy Gray Portrait Face Powder* (Distributed by Dorothy Gray, Ltd., 683 Fifth Ave., New York 16) 84 grams, \$1. South American.

*Elizabeth Arden Poudre d'Illusion* (Distributed by Elizabeth Arden, 691 Fifth Ave., New York 16) 83 grams, \$1.75. Rachel. Tests indicated presence of starch.

*Houbigant Translucid Sheer-Sifted Face Powder* (Houbigant Sales Corp., 539 W. 45, New York 19) 86 grams, \$1.50. Peche Soleil.

*Lenthéric Tweed Face Powder* (Distributed by Lenthéric, Inc., 761 Fifth Ave., New York 17) 64 grams, \$1. Naturelle.

*Louis Philippe Poudre Incarnat* (Distributed by The House of Louis Philippe, Inc., Jersey City, N.J.) 41 grams, 49c. Formal Rachelle.

*Lucien LeLong Robin Hood Sheer Texture Duwelyn Face Powder* (Distributed by Lucien LeLong, Inc., 681 Fifth Ave., New York 16) 60 grams, \$1. No. 66.

*Max Factor's Society Make-Up Powder* (Max Factor & Co., Hollywood, Calif.) 107 grams, \$1. Rachelle-Rose.

*Pond's Dreamflower Powder* (Pond's Extract Co., 60 Hudson, New York 13) 32.5 grams, 25c. Rachel.

*Princess Pat* (Princess Pat, Ltd., 2709 S. Wells, Chicago 16) 14.9 grams, 10c. Olde Ivory.

*Tangee Face Powder* (Distributed by The George W. Luft Co., Inc., 34-12 36 Ave., Long Island City, N.Y.) 11.5 grams, 10c. Peach.

*Woodbury*. No manufacturer's or distributor's name or address given on box. 16.2 grams, 10c. Brunette.

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The following brand is rated somewhat lower than those immediately preceding because of its coarseness and presence of impurities, as compared with the other brands examined. This brand, however, gives the consumer a lot of powder for the price charged,

*Hollywood Air Filtered Face Powder* (Distributed by Howe Co., Inc., Seattle, Wash.; sold at various five-and-dime stores) 72 grams, 25c. Malibu Tan.

# Household Cleaning Solvents

**E**LEVEN spot removers or solvents for grease, oils, and spots of similar origin have recently been chemically examined. The analyses put them for the most part in one of three classes: carbon tetrachloride, petroleum naphtha, or

a mixture of these two solvents. Other substances sometimes used in home dry cleaning solvents and spot removers are trichlorethylene, ethylene dichloride, propylene dichloride, benzene (benzol), toluene, ether, and chloroform. The

purpose of mixing carbon tetrachloride with the petroleum naphtha is usually to make the product non-flammable or practically so, but this quality must not be relied upon since some of the products containing carbon tetrachloride will burn, though usually not violently or freely, and besides the non-flammable solvent mixed with the flammable and explosive material may with use and time evaporate to a greater extent than the petroleum distillate or naphtha, thus leaving behind a flammable mixture which the user assumes to be non-explosive or non-flammable in accordance with its label.

The vapors of all volatile cleaning solvents that give off a strong or pronounced aromatic odor are poisonous to breathe and should not be used in a confined space. The petroleum-derived solvents are poisonous to breathe, and the chlorinated hydrocarbons highly so, although the flammable and explosive petroleum solvents are not so much so as the non-flammable "chlorohydrocarbons." Women and children are particularly susceptible to poisoning by these liquids.

Among the products containing both carbon tetrachloride and petroleum distillate, those highest in carbon tetrachloride are considered most desirable to buy on account of their relative (although not necessarily complete) safety from fire and explosion hazard. (*Everblum*, lowest in the scale of carbon tetrachloride content, with a specific gravity of 0.907, had cautionary labeling as an "inflammable mixture not to be used near fire or flame.") Those classed in the safer group are: *Energine Fireproof*, *Slick Shine*, and *Whippet*.

Product	Manufacturer or Distributor	Price	Price per pint	Composition
<i>Slick Shine</i>	Slick-Shine Co., Inc., Newark, N.J.	10c for 4 fl. oz.	\$0.40	Contained a chlorinated-hydrocarbon substance similar to carbon tetrachloride and a petroleum distillate like petroleum naphtha
<i>Maid of Honor</i>	Sears, Roebuck & Co.	25c for 8 fl. oz.	0.50	Carbon tetrachloride and petroleum naphtha
<i>Wilson Cleaner</i>	Wilson Chemical Co., Chicago	35c for 8 oz.	0.70	Petroleum naphtha
<i>Carbena Cleaning Fluid</i>	Carbena Products Co., 304 W. 26th St., N.Y.C.	25c for 4 fl. oz.	1.00	Carbon tetrachloride
<i>Des-Tex Dry Cleaner</i>	Research, Inc., Miami, Fla.	75c for 16 fl. oz.	0.75	Petroleum naphtha and pine distillate
<i>Firestone Spot Remover</i>	Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio	29c for 5 fl. oz.	0.93	Petroleum naphtha with a pine cover odor
<i>Du Pont Dry-Clean</i>	E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc., Wilmington, Del.	39c for 8 fl. oz.	0.78	Carbon tetrachloride
<i>Whippet Spot Remover</i>	R-A-K Laboratories (Distrib.), Philadelphia	29c for 8 fl. oz.	0.58	Carbon tetrachloride and petroleum naphtha
<i>Energine Fireproof Cleaning Fluid</i>	The Cummer Products Co., Bedford, Ohio	10c for 3 fl. oz.	0.53	Carbon tetrachloride and petroleum naphtha
<i>Everblum Chemical Dry Cleaning Fluid</i>	D. Blum, 316 W. 31st St., N.Y.C.	75c for 16 oz.	0.75	Carbon tetrachloride and petroleum naphtha
<i>Nacto Fabric Cleaner</i>	Nacto Cleaner Corp., 2171 Madison Ave., N.Y.C.	35c for 4 oz.	1.40	Carbon tetrachloride and toluene

**W**HILE the exigencies of war will probably not require the consumer to forego bathing, he may be obliged to scrub rather more vigorously than heretofore to acquire a pre-war degree of cleanliness. The available stock of soap oils is becoming depleted, and the importation of additional supplies of oil seeds has been severely limited by the shortage of shipping facilities and by enemy possession of areas from which oil seeds were formerly imported.

Palm kernel oil and olive oil came chiefly from Africa, and a small amount has arrived since the war activity subsided there. Coconut oil formerly came from the Philippines; some is now being received from South America. Palm kernel oil and coconut oil were much used for the lathering properties which they impart to soap, but because they are irritating to many skins, the shortage, so far as concerns people with sensitive skins, will turn out to be an advantage rather than otherwise.

#### **Wartime Lowering of Quality**

Various other oils, especially linseed and castor oils, are being used as substitutes for the imported products, and a large amount of lard has been released to soap manufacturers to help relieve the shortage of the customary soap constituents. The War Food Administration has also ordered the use of about 2% of rosin in soap as a substitute for a part of the oil or fat which would otherwise be required.

It is a curious fact that, from the standpoint of the manufacturer, the particular fat or oil to be used is not a problem of vital importance, for it is a relatively simple matter to sub-

## Toilet Soaps



stitute one for another and still meet the Federal Specifications, which are not at all restrictive, at least as judged from the consumer's standpoint. From the standpoint of the person who is interested in retaining as well as cleansing his skin, the fat ingredients of the soap are of great importance, and whether or not the soap is irritating depends to a considerable degree upon the nature of the fatty acid or acids which are constituents of its oily or fatty ingredients.

A toilet soap should be just soap, substantially without free alkali or free fatty acids, and uncontaminated with rosin or glycerin, or any of the materials which are often added to provide a basis for specious advertising claims. Federal Specifications for toilet soap, which formerly prohibited the inclusion of any "rosin, sugar and foreign matter," now permit the inclusion of rosin up to 10% and glycerol (glycerin) to 0.8%. No doubt economic necessity was held to justify the War Food Administration's order to include about 2% of rosin in toilet soap, though it is very doubtful whether a fat shortage actually has at any time existed, at least within the past several months. In any event, addition of the rosin means a poorer soap, and one which will be found irritating to the skins of many people; therefore no soap found to contain rosin has been given an *A* rating.

#### **Undesirable Ingredients**

Phenol or cresol is sometimes added to soap to give it an odor which some people associate with cleanliness because of its "antiseptic" quality, and to provide a basis for the claim that it possesses germicidal properties greater than those of ordinary soap. Both are skin irritants and add no medicinal or health value to the soap. Tar and glycerin, as well as many of the perfumes customarily used, are other soap constituents which are irritating to some skins. The irritating properties of coconut oil are well known, and in CR's listings no soap found to contain more than 25% of that ingredient is given an *A* rating. The presence of an appreciable amount of sodium chloride (common salt) remaining in a soap is an indication of poor manufacturing methods; presence of salt impairs the lathering properties and of course has no beneficial effect. Another useless but probably harmless addition to some soaps is casein, which somebody thought of adding as a basis for an advertising claim that the soap is a "milk" soap, and therefore somehow an aid to beauty.

#### **Other Ingredients**

When properly made, the "cold cream" or lanolin soaps are somewhat milder in their action and leave a thin film of fat on the skin. Since, however, the addition of lanolin decreases the foaming power of the soap, some manufacturers add more coconut oil to restore the lathering quality, and in doing so, they nullify any good effects due to the added lanolin. In Castile soap, the only source of fatty acid was formerly pure olive oil, and this soap was ex-



ceptionally mild in its action upon the skin. Recent court rulings based on expert opinions contributed by the National Bureau of Standards, have modified the previous definition of Castile soap, and unless the wrapper of a cake of soap explicitly states "Made Wholly with Olive Oil," or something which is clearly and unmistakably equivalent thereto, there is no reason to expect it to be superior to any other toilet soap; indeed, it may very well be a soap of inferior quality.

### CR's Tests

The following ratings are based on analyses recently made of leading brands of toilet soap bought in the retail market. They may represent recent production, or, of course, may have been manufactured some months or even a year ago. Under present conditions, it may be assumed that changes in formula will be made more often and more drastically than in normal times. In order that consumers may make effective price comparisons between brands of soaps, it is necessary to reduce the various brands to comparable moisture content or, more simply, to compare them all on a water-free basis. The actual amount of dried (moisture free) soap in each cake was determined in this test, and the price "per pound of dry soap" computed for each brand. Price per pound of dried soap, which is largely a measure of relative economy in use, varied from 10c (*Gondola*) to \$1.99 (*Yardley's*) per pound for the different brands, or a ratio of 20 to 1, which well illustrates the importance of the quantitative approach in buying consumers' goods. *Yardley's* has several times held the distinction of being the highest

priced soap per pound in CR's tests. Ratings are cr44.

In the listings, an asterisk (\*) indicates that coconut oil, a relatively undesirable ingredient, was absent.

### A. Recommended

\**Bridal Bouquet* (J. Eavenson & Sons, Division of Wilson & Co., Inc., Camden, N.J.) 26c.

*Camay* (Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati) 36c.

*Cashmere Bouquet* (Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co., Jersey City, N.J.) 33c.

*Coleo Colgate* (Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co.) 30c.

*Fashion Cold Cream Soap*, Gardenia, (Distributed by Cooperative Distributors, Inc., 116 E. 16th, New York City) 24c.

*Octagon* (Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co.) 34c.

*Williams Lanolin* (J. B. Williams Co., Glastonbury, Conn.) 77c.

\**Williams Mug Shaving Soap* (J. B. Williams Co.) 57c.

### B. Intermediate

*Colgate Cup Shave* (Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co.) 50c. Contained rosin.

\**Cuticura* (Potter Drug & Chemical Corp., Malden, Mass.) \$1.19. Contained rosin.

*Fairy* (Lever Bros. Co., Cambridge, Mass.) 33c.

*Gondola* (Distributed by Woolworth stores) 10c.

*Lifebuoy* (Lever Bros. Co.) 31c. Contained rosin.

*Lux* (Lever Bros. Co.) 34c. Contained rosin.

*Packer's Tar Soap* (Packers Tar Soap Inc., Mystic, Conn.) 53c. Fatty acid content too high, more than was requisite to utilize the alkali used in manufacture, excess fatty acid gives a "free acidity" reaction.

\**Palmolive* (Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co.) 33c.

\**Pears's Original Transparent Soap* (A. & F. Pears, Ltd.; distributed by Lever Bros. Co.) \$1.49. Fatty acid content too high.

\**Pine and Balsam* (J. B. Williams Co.) 28c. Contained rosin.

*Swan* (Lever Bros., Co.) 22c. Contained rosin.

*Woodbury's Facial Soap* (John H. Woodbury, Inc., Cincinnati) 48c. Contained rosin.

### C. Not Recommended

*Sweetheart Skin Charm* (Manhattan Soap Co., New York City) 39c. Contained rosin; failed to meet Federal specifications for the total of free alkali, matter insoluble in alcohol and sodium chloride.

\**Yardley Old English Lavendar Soap* (Yardley, New York City) \$1.99. Contained rosin; failed to meet Federal specifications for the total of free alkali, matter insoluble in alcohol and sodium chloride.



### Off the Editor's Chest

(Continued from page 2)

the war], that's not likely to happen again." In the same issue, considerable disturbance in the shoe trade is reported over a rumor that *rationing of shoes was to be lifted* in September. It is made plain that the trade is against speedy and sudden lifting of the present wartime regulations on footwear because of the loss in value of the "war-model" shoes when there is a return to a free market in shoes, with consumers able to buy what they want.

In another field, the OPA has been exercised for some time because good-value "low-end" or moderately-priced women's and children's wear have not been available. The crux of this matter is that OPA price regulations have simply wiped out free decision and judgment in the garment trade by *making it unprofitable to manufacture and sell such garments*. Various attempts, all futile, have been made by the OPA to devise some new regulation that would make these garments appear in the stores as if by some economic magic.

To quote the New York Times, June 18, 1944, on this point:

"As one converter was heard

to remark about the shortage of low-end textiles: 'The whole trouble is that OPA is giving us profits that we never made before.' What he meant was that upgrading and over-finishing have been encouraged by the premium regulations so that \$10 dresses are using \$5 fabrics; OPA ceilings have become market minimums, a condition which competition would soon fix up in most trades, observers believe." To which might be added the comment—if government agencies had not in every way blocked and thwarted the functioning of competition.

The supply of aluminum, as we reported some time back, is now ample. In order to save paper, which is somewhat scarce, one aluminum company presented a plan to the WPB for wrapping bread in aluminum foil. It appears that before the war, plans had been made for merchandising this type of wrapper. The WPB turned down the proposal. In leaving them in full possession of the field, the WPB naturally performed a valuable service to the wax paper manufacturers. It is reported, however, that WPB would look favorably on the return to wrapping cigarettes in foil. Since cigarettes dry out easily in paper wrappers, they must be smoked sooner after packaging than in pre-war times. At any rate sales are booming and the cigarette manufacturers do not appear to be in a hurry to return to the better pre-war packaging.

Rayon yarns for making hosiery have been allocated to manufacturers in certain limited amounts, by a government directive. Early in June the WPB suggested to the Hosiery Industry Advisory Committee that this rayon yarn distribution order be revoked and that the yarn market be freed of government control except as to "rated" (priority) orders. The trade association of the small manufacturers welcomed the suggestion, pointing out that the present limitation order favored the fine-gauge producers, among which

were the largest manufacturers in the field, by *limiting the scarce fine denier yarn to their machines.*

It was to be expected that the operators who were in a position to secure a basic advantage over their competitors by continuance of government restrictions would object to a return to free competition; they did exactly this, and reported unfavorably on the WPB proposal.

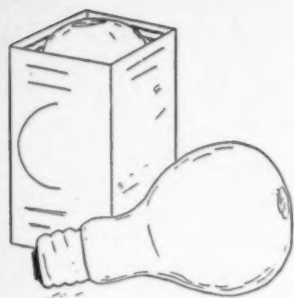
The vogue for two-color brown and white leather shoes was frowned upon by the WPB, and their manufacture was prohibited; this was asserted to be for the purpose of saving leather. Some enterprising manufacturer conceived the idea of making white shoes in such fashion that the purchaser could have the saddle, tip, or foxings dyed tan or any desired shade to match a costume. The WPB executives, reacting to prevent the development of competition, declared the manufacture of such shoes to be a violation of the government's order. Since that was too obviously exceeding their legal powers and authority, they issued a ruling a month and a half later that such shoes might be made but must be sold by the retailer only as all-white shoes. The implication was clear that the dealer must not even hint to the prospective purchaser that certain portions *could* be dyed to order! Competition again was stifled, and the consumers' freedom of choice deliberately interfered with in the interest of a particular business group. (Apparently consumer demand has been so strong that the WPB has finally capitulated and, as this issue goes to press, has issued an order permitting "two-toned" shoes with other than leather soles to be manufactured, effective September 1, 1944.)

Such examples could be multiplied, but the pattern that runs through them all is clear. The trades which have secured economic advantages by present government restrictions on output,

price control measures, and allocations of raw materials are going to be unwilling to see these removed; they *like* to operate "under an umbrella," as it were, shielding them from the rain of competition, and they will put up a vigorous fight against removing these controls.

There will be many tears shed over the consumer's plight and it will be explained how dreadful it will be for him if the governmental controls over the goods he buys and the choices he makes are "relaxed prematurely." If someone in authority in government service were able to use fairly simple rather than excessively complicated logic, it might occur to him to admit the possibility that restoring something approximating the status quo before the war might bring somewhat the same results as were had before the war, when an abundance of low-priced articles were made and sold. Regulations always result in more and more regulation, until finally the *controls become so complex and so inter-related that no one can possibly predict the results in terms of prices and quality that will flow from the next order or amendment.*

If a large number of consumers are taken in by arguments in favor of continuing controls, as though they operated in the consumer's behalf, it will be a long time before officials will permit restoration of the competitive market which produced the abundance of good and low-priced clothing, appliances, automobiles, and other much sought-after articles of pre-war years, and such goods will be very long in returning to dealers' shelves. Quite likely some of them, and the pre-war price levels that went with them, will never come back, if consumers meekly accept continuance of the regimented market and OPA and WPB policies that favor industrial combination and price-fixing as against competition and the free market.



## Electric Lamp Bulbs

**C**ERTAIN incandescent lamp bulbs on sale in pre-war days would have been a loss if a two dollar bill had been given away free with each one. Now, with the very faulty Japanese lamp bulbs no longer on the market, the situation is not as bad as it was for many years past; nevertheless some lamps are poor enough in efficiency that the consumer would be out of pocket if he were given a 50-cent bonus with the purchase of each lamp.

To the layman, such a statement may sound implausible; to most lamp users, all 60-watt lamps require approximately 60 watts of electrical energy, and hence should cost the same amount of money per thousand hours to operate. But the *amount of light* provided by different brands of incandescent lamps of the same wattage varies considerably, and it is only on the basis of the amount of light obtained for the money expended for the lamp and the current it consumes that any true or valid comparison can be made.

The quantity or amount of light produced by a lamp is measured in units known as lumens, and a good 60-watt lamp should produce about 750 lumens. In its normal life of 1000 hours, that lamp delivers a total of about 750,000 lumen-hours. To produce 750,000 lumen-hours by means of a very poor pre-war 60-watt lamp

would have cost \$4.70 for the lamp and current (electricity at 5c per kwhr.) as against \$3 for a *good* 60-watt lamp, so that it cost the consumer about \$1.70 more per thousand hours to obtain the same amount of light from the poor lamp instead of a good quality American-made lamp. The moral of this story is, of course, never take the cheap or "bargain" lamps of unknown make. They will al-

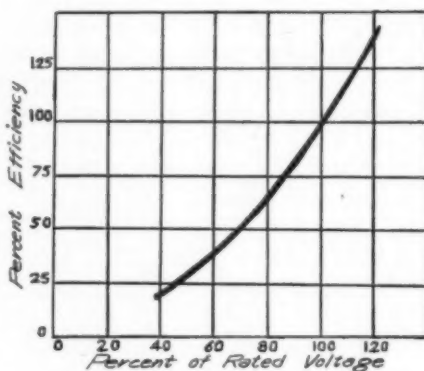


Figure 1

most never be a bargain, and they will very likely be dear at any price.

There are several ways in which the consumer who uses incandescent (tungsten) lamp bulbs can keep his light bills to a minimum, a matter of considerable importance in these days of high living costs. One is to avoid the "long-life" lamps that are sometimes sold, i.e., those having a rated life in excess of 1000 hours.

The standard bulbs with a rated life of 1000 hours have been found to be the most eco-

nomical for normal uses. Bulbs of a slightly lower rated voltage than that of the electricity available in the house (e.g., a 115-volt bulb used on a 120-volt line) will produce more light for a given amount of electricity, but in so doing, their life is somewhat shortened. Even so, it is usually more practicable to obtain extra light in this way, where extra light is needed, than to change to a bulb of the next higher wattage, especially now that some of the wattage steps of lamps have been eliminated in the interest of greater economy of manufacture in wartime.

Figure 1 shows that a lamp operated at 10% above its rated voltage gives about 20% more light in proportion to the electrical energy consumed than the same lamp at normal voltage; and that lamps operated at 10 or 20 percent below their rated voltage show marked decreases in efficiency. The reason for this is that a lamp produces light by the heating and glowing of the tungsten wire filament. When this wire becomes less hot due to the application of a lower voltage, less light is produced, of course, and it happens that a *small* downward change in voltage will produce a relatively *large* decrease in the amount of light. The practical importance of this is that the actual average voltage on any given house circuit may vary by a considerable percentage above or below the nominal line voltage of 115 or 120 volts; thus the rated voltage of the lamps should be one that is correctly selected for the actual voltage conditions in the particular place district.

Where there is a possible choice between several smaller lamps and one larger one, it is well to have in mind that large-

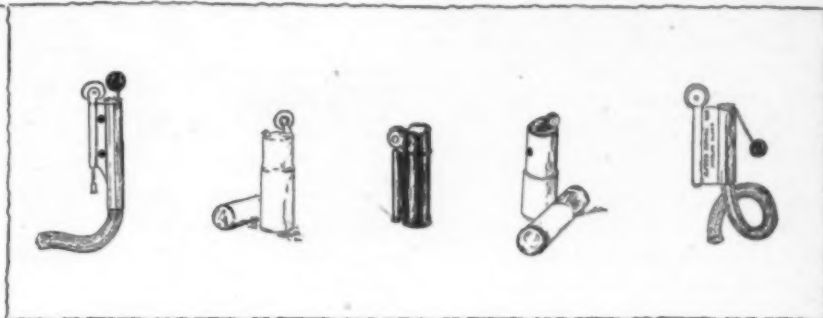


sized incandescent lamps are more efficient than the smaller sizes. For example, one 60-watt lamp will give more light than three 25-watt lamps, and consume 20% less energy. When calculated on the basis

of equal illumination, the larger lamp affords a 30% saving. This should not be taken as an argument for replacing low wattage lamps with higher wattage lamps, but rather for

avoiding purchase and use of fixtures that have three, five, or more small lamps, whenever there is not some special reason for using several lamps instead of the single large one.

## New Cigarette Lighters



THE scarcity of cigarette lighters, greatly needed by men in the armed forces, and by civilians in regions where matches are scarce has resulted in the resurrection of an old type of lighter, said to have been common during the last war, which apparently, due to its disadvantages, died a natural death. This lighter uses a long cylindrical wick about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter which instead of igniting into flame smoulders like the punk which in an earlier day was used for setting off firecrackers. There are several disadvantages inherent in this punk-wick type of lighter and only minor advantages, perhaps. One advantage is its ability to provide the means for igniting a cigarette in a strong wind, and the other is that it does not require refueling at short intervals. On the other hand, it gives off a disagreeable odor indoors when lighted, is unhandy to carry in the pocket, unhandsome in appearance, and it is pretty close to impossible to light a pipe or cigar with it. It also has to be lighted with a match or other flame when the wick is new and at intervals during the

life of the wick, in order to condition the wick by charring and make it responsive to the spark. For cigarette-smoking members of the armed services this lighter is probably comparable in usefulness to the conventional style of lighter; its not exposing a flame gives it some advantage in concealment of personnel at night. For most civilians, however, it is believed the punk-wick lighter will usually be pretty unsatisfactory.

Two lighters of this type are now on the market, the *Dunhill* and the *Foxhole Blackout*. The *Dunhill* contains about 7/10 of an ounce of sterling silver, which is worth about 50 cents; it must be the Dunhill name and the present scarcity market which account for the lighters' high price of \$5 (plus 50 cents tax), compared to the *Foxhole Blackout* lighter at \$1.25. Extra flints and length of wick supplied with the *Foxhole Blackout* are worth 70 cents at the Dunhill price for such accessories. The *Dunhill* does have one advantage over the \$1.25 lighter, and that is that the ball which acts as a snuffer is secured to the wick by a flexible chain, permitting it to be moved

out of the way when the lighter is to be used; on the cheaper lighter the snuffer is secured to the wick by means of a rigid pin, impairing the ease of access to the glowing wick by the end of the cigarette.

Three lighters of the conventional type with thumb-spun file-wheel, two marketed by Weston International Co., and the third by Dunhill have been examined. These are now widely available at a reasonable price, and are considered fairly good buys. The Weston lighters work well, but being made of thin sheet steel are not likely to have as long a life as pre-war lighters which were more sturdily made. The \$2 *Dunhill* was a well-made lighter, of heavier gage metal than the two *Westons*. Fluid for these lighters appears to be readily available in cigar stores at 12 to 15 cents for a 4 fl. oz. bottle. Gasoline should not be used, because nearly all gasoline nowadays is leaded, but unleaded gasoline if obtainable is satisfactory. Even small amounts of benzene or gasoline constitute a real hazard in the home, and should be stored and handled with great care, away from

flame or other sources of heat at high temperature.

## Cigar, Pipe, and Cigarette Lighters

### A. Recommended

**Ball-O-Flint** (A. S. Weston, Weston International Co., New York City) 98c. Conventional thumb-wheel, "flint" (cerium-alloy) type to be re-filled with lighter fuel. Claimed to be windproof, and while not fully so, it could be operated in a strong wind if partly shielded by the hands. Extra large wick, which gave good sized flame, made this lighter well suited for use by pipe smokers. 1

**Mighty Midget King Size** (A. S. Weston, Weston International Co., New York City) 69c. Conventional thumb-wheel, "flint," and fluid type. 1

**Dunhill Service Lighter** (Alfred Dunhill of London Inc., 620 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.) \$2, with two extra "flints" and one extra wick. Conventional thumb-wheel, "flint," and fluid type. Opens and lights in one (one-hand) operation. Flame shielded, making lighter reasonably windproof. Had much larger fluid capacity than lighters listed above and was of considerably more substantial construction. 2

## Cigarette Lighters

### B. Intermediate

**Foxhole Blackout Lighter** (Inco Co., New York City) \$1.25 with extra wick and 18 extra flints. Wick 65% longer than *Dunhill*. Does not require fluid, but uses instead a chemically treated wick which glows but does not flame. Made of nickel-plated metal. Would rate C for pipe or cigar smokers. 1

**Dunhill Windproof Lighter** (Alfred Dunhill of London Inc., 620 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.) \$5 plus 50c tax, one spare wick included. Extra wicks 10c each, flints three for 10c. Essentially the same as *Foxhole Blackout Lighter* except case is of sterling silver. Such lighters should not be purchased unless their use is actually necessary, since they are very uneconomical. Neglecting first cost and depreciation, the cost to operate this lighter will be about 7 times as much as book matches selling at 3 books for 1c. Would rate C for pipe or cigar smokers. 3

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	Month and Page
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Permanent waves, cold†	May, 5-6
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Photography, economy hint for	Mar., 10
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wetting agents, prevent water spotting	June, 4
Pliers, parallel-jaw, good quality (Bernard)†	July, 30
Poison ivy, exterminating†	June, 26
Process cheese†	Jan., 10-12
Proteins, vegetable, lacking balance of necessary amino acids	June, 4
Roaches, getting rid of	Mar., 4
Rubber footwear†	Feb., 24-26
Rugs, care of	May, 22
cleaning compounds, may be bleaches	July, 3
Saw, handy household (Allway)†	July, 30
Scale, pocket-size postal, inaccurate†	July, 30
Screens, fly, of plastic†, screen repairing	July, 22
patches (Snap-on)†	Apr., 30
Shampoos for hair and scalp†	July, 9-12
Sheets, crib, waterproof†	June, 11-13
Shine remover (Shyn-O-Way)†	Feb., 23
Shoe polishes (Kiwi, Meltonian, Esquire, Whittemore's Bon Ton)†	May, 22
Shoes, home repairing†	June, 29
Shorts, men's†	Apr., 9-11
Sleep	Feb., 13-16
Soap, substitutes, for laundering and dishwashing (Sudz, Cold-foam)†	May, 23-24
toilet, change in quality	May, 3
Soda in vegetable cookery	Feb., 9
Soups, dried†	Mar., 9-10
Spraying of vegetables with arsenicals, hazardous	June, 26
Springs, steel, for household and farm repairs†	July, 30
Storing fruits and vegetables	July, 5-9
Suits, men's†	Mar., 5-8
Sweeteners, cost of	May, 18
Teeth, extra-good, in North Texas	July, 17-18
Tooth powders†	Jan., 13-15
Towels, for drying dishes†	June, 23-25
Turkey meat excellent source of vitamin B complex	July, 3
Utensils, kitchen plastic plate-scrapers, unsatisfactory	June, 4
slicing aid for sandwich-making (Seco Sandwich Master)†	June, 30
Vitamins and vitamin preparations	Jan., 3, 12, 25, 26; Feb., 3, 9, 5-9; Mar., 11-14†, 29; May, 29; June, 18; July, 3
Walking, hygiene, footwear, accessories	Mar., 17-21
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† indicates that brand listings are included.  
\* indicates articles that appear each month in the Bulletin.

# Ratings of Motion Pictures



This section aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a number of reviews, ranging from the motion picture trade press to Parents' Magazine, which rates motion pictures not only on their quality as entertainment but on their suitability in various aspects for children.

It should be emphasized that the motion picture ratings which follow do not represent the judgment of a single person but are based on an analysis of the reviews appearing in some 20 different periodicals. (See January 1944 issue for sources of the reviews.)

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics who have been judged to rate the film A (recommended), B (intermediate), and C (not recommended).

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adv—adventure	mus—musical
biog—biography	mys—mystery
car—cartoon	sop—dramatization of a novel
com—comedy	rom—romance
cri—crime and capture of criminals	soc—social-problem drama
doc—documentary	t—in technicolor
dr—drama	trav—travelogue
fan—fantasy	war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime
hist—founded on historical incident	wes—western
mel—melodrama	

A	B	C		
—	6	2	Action in Arabia	war-mel AYC
—	1	8	Address Unknown	war-dr A
—	2	1	Adventure in Blackmail	com A
—	1	4	Adventure in Music	mus-doc AYC
—	5	8	Adventures of Mark Twain	biog AYC
—	13	3	Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves	mel-t AYC
—	2	4	Allergic to Love	mus-com A
—	3	1	American Romance, An	soc-dr-t AYC
—	7	5	And the Angels Sing	mus-com A
—	8	4	Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble	com AYC
—	1	2	Are These Our Parents?	soc-mel A
—	3	3	Arizona Whirlwind	wes AYC
—	7	2	Around the World	war-mus-com AYC
—	3	5	Attack	war-doc A
—	1	6	Bathing Beauty	mus-com-t A
—	3	4	Beautiful But Broke	mus-com AYC
—	1	4	Beneath Western Skies	wes AYC
—	2	6	Bermuda Mystery	mys-mel AYC
—	6	5	Between Two Worlds	fan A
—	3	7	Black Parachute, The	war-mel A
—	6	7	Bridge of San Luis Rey	dr AYC
—	9	7	Broadway Rhythm	mus-com-t AYC
—	1	11	Buffalo Bill	wes-biog-t AYC
—	1	2	Bullets and Saddles	wes AYC
—	4	1	California Joe	wes-dr A
—	8	3	Calling Dr. Death	mys-mel A
—	4	1	Candlelight in Algeria	war-mel A
—	5	—	Canterville Ghost, The	mys-com AYC
—	10	—	Career Girl	mus-com A
—	4	5	Casanova in Burlesque	mus-com A
—	4	3	Charlie Chan in the Chinese Cat	cri-mel AYC
—	3	5	Charlie Chan in the Secret Service	cri-mys AYC
—	11	3	Chip Off the Old Block	mus-com AYC
—	3	7	Christmas Holiday	mus-dr A
—	3	—	Coastal Command	war-doc AYC

A	B	C		
—	4	10	Cobra Woman	mel-t A
—	1	3	Contender, The	mel AYC
—	2	6	Courageous Mr. Penn	hist-dr AYC
—	4	11	Cover Girl	mus-com-t A
—	7	1	Cowboy and the Senorita	mus-wes AYC
—	1	2	Cowboy Canteen	mus-wes AYC
—	3	3	Crime Doctor's Strangest Case	cri-mel A
—	6	6	Curse of the Cat People, The	mys-mel A
—	6	10	Days of Glory	war-mel A
—	1	3	Death Rides the Plains	wes AYC
—	1	4	Death Valley Rangers	wes AYC
—	2	5	Deerslayer	adv AYC
—	2	9	Desert Song, The	war-mus-mel-t A
—	10	4	Destination, Tokyo	war-dr AYC
—	5	1	Detective Kitty O'Day	cri-mys A
—	3	2	Devil Riders	wes AYC
—	1	8	Double Indemnity	cri-mel A
—	5	5	Doughboys in Ireland	mus-com AYC
—	3	2	Drifter, The	wes AYC
—	7	2	Escape to Danger	war-mel A
—	2	12	Eve of St. Mark, The	war-dr A
—	6	4	Falcon and the Co-eds, The	cri-mys AYC
—	7	3	Falcon Out West, The	cri-mys A
—	2	9	Fighting Seabees, The	war-mel AYC
—	3	2	Fighting Valley	mus-wes AYC
—	—	6	Follies Girl	mus-com A
—	12	5	Follow the Boys	war-mus-com AYC
—	4	2	Follow the Leader	cri-com A
—	3	—	Forty-Eight Hours	war-mel A
—	9	7	Four Jills in a Jeep	war-mus-com A
—	4	3	Gambler's Choice	cri-mel A
—	10	5	Gang's All Here, The	mus-com-t A
—	6	4	Gangway for Tomorrow	war-dr-propaganda A
—	4	9	Gaslight	mys-mel A
—	5	5	Ghost Catchers	com AYC
—	4	7	Ghost Ship, The	mel A
—	1	5	Ghost That Walks Alone	cri-com A
—	3	5	Gildersleeve's Ghost	com A
—	2	6	Girl in the Case	mel AYC
—	9	10	Going My Way	mus-dr AYC
—	3	3	Goodnight Sweetheart	com A
—	6	9	Government Girl	war-com A
—	4	3	Goyescas	mus-com A
—	2	2	Great Moment, The	biog-dr AYC
—	4	9	Gung Ho	war-dr A
—	—	3	Gunsmoke Mesa	mus-wes AYC
—	1	12	Guy Named Joe, A	war-dr A
—	1	4	Hail The Conquering Hero Comes	war-com A
—	3	3	Hail to the Rangers	mus-wes AYC
—	7	4	Hairy Ape, The	soc-dr A
—	2	6	Hands Across the Border	mus-wes AYC
—	4	5	Hat-Check Honey	mus-com AYC
—	4	11	Heat's On, The	mus-com A
—	6	10	Heavenly Body, The	com A
—	4	1	Henry Aldrich's Little Secret	com AYC
—	4	3	Henry Aldrich Plays Cupid	com AYC
—	6	6	Her Primitive Man	com A
—	3	2	Heroes Are Made	war-mel A
—	7	—	Hey, Rookie	war-mus-com AYC
—	7	2	Hi, Good Lookin'	mus-com AYC
—	3	—	Hidden Valley Outlaws	wes AYC
—	1	7	Hitler Gang, The	war-dr-propaganda A
—	2	9	Home in Indiana	com-t AYC
—	5	3	Hot Rhythm	mus-com AYC
—	1	6	Hour Before Dawn, The	war-dr AYC
—	2	2	I Love a Soldier	war-com A
—	9	5	Imposter, The	war-dr A
—	10	4	In Our Time	war-dr AYC
—	4	4	Invisible Man's Revenge, The	mys-mel A



A	B	C		
—	2	6	Is Everybody Happy?.....	war-mus-dr AYC
—	4	3	It Happened in Gibraltar.....	war-mel A
1	14	2	It Happened Tomorrow.....	com A
—	8	6	Jack London.....	biog A
—	5	3	Jam Session.....	mus-com A
—	6	2	Jamboree.....	mus-com AYC
4	13	3	Jane Eyre.....	nov A
—	4	3	Jive Junction.....	mus-dr AYC
—	6	2	Johnny Doesn't Live Here Any More.....	fan A
—	4	2	Jungle Woman.....	mel A
—	—	8	Klondike Kate.....	mel A
1	9	5	Knickerbocker Holiday.....	mus-com AYC
—	2	14	Ladies Courageous.....	war-dr A
—	1	6	Ladies of Washington.....	war-mel AYC
—	5	5	Lady and the Monster, The.....	mys-mel A
1	13	4	Lady in the Dark.....	mus-com-t A
—	3	4	Lady in the Death House.....	mys-mel A
—	9	3	Lady, Let's Dance.....	mus-com AYC
—	1	2	Laramie Trail, The.....	wes AYC
—	1	5	Law Men.....	wes AYC
5	10	3	Lifeboat.....	war-dr A
—	6	1	Lumberjack.....	wes AYC
—	2	7	Make Your Own Bed.....	com A
1	6	4	Man from Frisco, The.....	war-dr AYC
—	4	2	Marine Raiders.....	war-dr AYC
—	5	3	Mask of Dimitrios.....	cri-mel A
—	3	5	Meet the People.....	war-mus-com A
8	5	—	Memphis Belle, The.....	war-doc-t AYC
—	3	6	Men on Her Mind.....	mus-dr A
—	3	5	Million Dollar Kid.....	com A
2	8	8	Miracle of Morgan's Creek, The.....	com A
—	3	5	Monster Maker, The.....	mel A
—	3	6	Moon Over Las Vegas.....	com A
3	7	2	Mr. Skeffington.....	nov A
—	3	4	Mummy's Ghost, The.....	mys-mel A
—	2	8	My Best Gal.....	mus-dr AYC
—	3	1	Mystery Man.....	wes AYC
—	1	6	Nabonga.....	mel AYC
—	9	2	Navy Way, The.....	war-mel AYC
—	3	—	Negro Soldier, The.....	war-doc A
—	5	2	Night of Adventure, A.....	cri-mel A
—	6	4	Nine Girls.....	cri-mys A
—	6	4	No Greater Love.....	war-dr A
2	14	2	No Time for Love.....	com A
1	10	5	None Shall Escape.....	war-mel A
—	2	6	O, My Darling Clementine.....	mus-com A
—	2	1	Oklahoma Raiders.....	mus-wes AYC
1	11	5	Old Acquaintance.....	dr A
—	11	1	Once Upon a Time.....	com-fan AYC
—	3	3	One Inch from Victory.....	war-doc A
—	2	4	Outlaw Trail.....	wes AYC
—	2	1	Outlaws of Santa Fe.....	wes AYC
—	2	7	Pardon My Rhythm.....	mus-com AYC
—	3	3	Partners of the Trail.....	wes AYC
—	12	7	Passage to Marseille.....	war-mel A
—	5	3	Passport to Adventure.....	war-com A
2	14	1	Phantom Lady.....	mys-mel A
1	10	6	Pin-Up Girl.....	war-mus-com-t A
—	4	6	Pistol Packin' Mama.....	mus-wes A
—	2	2	Port of Forty Thieves.....	mys-mel A
3	9	5	Purple Heart, The.....	war-dr A
—	2	5	Racket Man, The.....	cri-mel AYC
—	2	3	Raiders of Red Gap.....	wes AYC
—	3	—	Raiders of Sunset Pass.....	wes AYC
—	3	3	Raiders of the Border.....	wes AYC
—	3	1	Range Law.....	wes AYC
—	5	7	Rationing.....	com AYC
—	5	4	Return of the Vampire.....	mys-mel A
—	3	4	Riders of the Deadline.....	wes AYC
—	11	7	Riding High.....	mus-com-t A
—	3	—	Riding West.....	mus-wes AYC

A	B	C		
—	4	6	Roger Touhy, Gangster.....	mel A
—	4	5	Rookies in Burma.....	war-com AYC
—	5	4	Rosie, the Riveter.....	mus-com A
—	1	5	Sailor's Holiday.....	war-com A
—	7	2	Scarlet Claw, The.....	cri-mel A
—	9	1	Secret Command.....	war-mel A
—	1	3	Secrets of Scotland Yard.....	war-mys AYC
2	16	—	See Here, Private Hargrove.....	war-com AYC
—	4	3	Sensations of 1945.....	mus-com A
—	5	7	Seven Days Ashore.....	war-mus-com A
—	2	3	Shake Hands with Murder.....	cri-mel AYC
—	11	4	Shine On, Harvest Moon.....	mus-biog-t AYC
1	14	3	Show Business.....	mus-com A
—	1	3	Silent Partner.....	cri-mys AYC
—	2	4	Sing a Jingle.....	mus-com AYC
—	1	6	Slightly Terrific.....	mus-com AYC
10	7	—	Song of Bernadette, The.....	dr AYC
—	4	—	Song of Nevada.....	mus-wes AYC
1	10	6	Song of Russia.....	war-dr AYC
1	7	—	Song of the Open Road.....	mus-com AYC
—	1	5	South of Dixie.....	mus-com A
—	13	4	Standing Room Only.....	war-com A
—	2	2	Stars on Parade.....	mus-com A
—	4	1	Step Lively.....	mus-com A
1	8	5	Story of Dr. Wassell, The.....	war-biog-t A
5	11	—	Sullivans, The.....	war-dr AYC
—	6	2	Summer Storm.....	dr A
—	3	—	Sundown Valley.....	wes AYC
—	1	5	Sweethearts of U.S.A.....	mus-com AYC
—	3	5	Swing Out the Blues.....	mus-com AYC
—	1	4	Take It Big.....	mus-com A
—	4	11	Tampico.....	war-mel A
—	3	3	Taxi to Heaven!.....	mus-com AYC
—	—	5	Teen Age.....	soc-mel A
2	7	10	Tender Comrade.....	war-dr A
—	1	2	They Live in Fear.....	war-dr A
—	4	1	They Met in Moscow.....	mus-com AYC
1	8	4	This Is the Life.....	rom AYC
—	4	7	Three Men in White.....	com AYC
—	3	—	Trial of Terror.....	mus-wes AYC
—	6	3	Trocadero.....	mus-com AYC
—	4	—	Tucson Raiders.....	wes AYC
4	5	—	Tunisian Victory.....	war-doc AYC
—	3	—	Twilight on the Prairie.....	mus-wes AYC
3	12	1	Two Girls and a Sailor.....	mus-com AYC
—	2	5	Two-Man Submarine.....	war-mel AYC
—	5	2	Uncensored.....	war-mel A
—	8	6	Uncertain Glory.....	war-mel A
—	1	2	Underground Guerrillas.....	war-mel A
—	14	4	Uninvited, The.....	mys-mel A
1	14	1	Up in Arms.....	war-mus-com-t A
—	8	7	Up in Mabel's Room.....	com A
—	2	1	Vigilantes Ride, The.....	mus-wes AYC
3	6	5	Voice in the Wind.....	war-dr A
—	1	6	Voodoo Man, The.....	mys-mel A
—	1	4	Waterfront.....	war-mel A
—	4	5	Weekend Pass.....	war-mus-com AYC
—	4	4	Weird Woman.....	cri-mys A
—	1	2	West of Texas.....	mus-wes AYC
—	3	3	Westward Bound.....	wes AYC
—	2	6	What a Man!.....	com A
—	14	3	What a Woman!.....	com A
—	6	7	Where Are Your Children?.....	mel A
—	3	3	Whispering Footsteps.....	mys-mel A
—	5	4	Whistler, The.....	mys-mel A
—	5	8	White Cliffs of Dover.....	war-dr AYC
1	10	2	Woman of the Town, The.....	mus-wes A
—	6	5	Women in Bondage.....	war-dr A
—	2	1	Wyoming Hurricane.....	wes AYC
—	9	5	Yellow Canary.....	war-mys AYC
—	5	1	Yellow Rose of Texas.....	mus-wes AYC
—	6	4	You Can't Ration Love.....	mus-com AYC
—	2	1	Young Man's Fancy, A.....	com A
—	1	4	Youth Runs Wild.....	soc-dr A

# The Consumers' Observation Post

[Continued from page 4]

be over two million acres short of the War Food Administration's goal. The farmers are planting oats for feeding animals instead, which is a desirable "break" for American consumers, certainly.

\* \* \*

**SKIN IRRITATION** caused by machine oil may be due to a secondary infection. One diagnosis of the problem indicates that the machine oil dissolves the natural fats of the skin and defats it so that it becomes dry and cracks. It is then comparatively easy for bacteria to penetrate it. One precaution to be observed by those doing war work in factories is to wash hands and arms carefully with soap and water before and after work, and to rub lanolin well into the hands after each washing. Lanolin may be difficult to obtain, but it has been available in the form of toilet lanolin in many drugstores.

\* \* \*

**GLASS PUNCH BOWLS** are attractive, but expensive and may be short lived, as one CR subscriber found to his sorrow. His particular purchase was a Christmas present which was used only once and then cracked spontaneously all around the bottom. Neither the shop where it was purchased nor the company which manufactured it would make a replacement. As we see it, the manufacturers do their company's good will a very poor service when they adopt so hard-boiled a policy regarding replacement of articles which have failed through no fault of the consumer and through no action which he has taken or failed to take in respect to their care or use.

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## NEW PRODUCTS:

**Steel Rules or Scales**, production of which has been stimulated by the large number of people now engaged in some aspect of munitions manufacture or inspection, are now on the market in wide variety. One of the most useful of the cheaper rules is marked "General No. 310." It includes 32nd and 64th inch graduations, and a very useful taper-slot wire-gauge reading wire sizes from 20 to 8. This 6-inch rule is a little harder to find than some of the less useful kinds; CR's sample was purchased in the hardware department of a large New York department store (Macy's).

Another rule, called **Pioneer**, lacks the taper slot for wire diameter measurements, but has the advantage of unusual diversity of graduations. One edge is marked to 1/2 mm.; the other has 6 inches marked respectively in the follow-



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*It is scheduled for mailing early in September.*

ing fractions of an inch: 64th's, 32nd's, 16th's, 50th's, 20th's, 10th's. The opposite face of the rule carries a table of fractional and decimal equivalents.

One defect to be guarded against in purchasing any of the low-priced or five-and-dime store steel rules, under 75 cents or \$1, is that the first graduation may not be in exact relationship to the end of the rule, but sometimes, with care in selection, a rule can be found which has the first or end graduation correctly located.

"Bedside tables" or "chairside tables" are often a useful article in the home, but unfortunately very few of those found in stores are even reasonably well made. An inspection of a considerable number, as in department stores and elsewhere, shows that practically all of them are very "jiggly"—so much so as to be actually unpleasant or uncomfortable for the eyes, when used for writing or even reading. One exception is the Tillie Table, which seems outstandingly the best buy in the class, and although it is very well made and finished, it costs not much more than some of the unsteady kinds. Such a table is particularly convenient for the holding of a heavy reference book or encyclopedia, would be handy for work on small drawings or sketches. It may be even used as a fill-in for a game table. The Tilt Top Tillie Table is made by the Franklin Table Co., 2020 Village Drive, Louisville, Kentucky. Lewis & Conger, Sixth Ave. and 45 St., New York City, have some of which the top is said to be genuine mahogany. The makers themselves are now offering the tables with a top of a reddish-brown Mexican wood they call "Madero" (not one of the names of woods known to experts on foreign woods) which is said to harmonize with either walnut or mahogany, that are priced at \$12.50 and \$13.50 for the Tillie Table and the Tall Tillie Table (for hospital beds) respectively. This table is adjustable in height by an arrangement which is exceptionally stout and rigid. It has a board or easel 15-1/2 in. x 26 in., which can be tilted from level to vertical. There is a ledge or strip at the near edge. An ingenious arrangement permits hinging the easel or top so that it can be used on either the left or the right side of the bed or chair at will.

Vitex (a "Renwal Product"), a lemon juice extractor, made of transparent plastic, has been tried out and found very satisfactory. It sells at 10c in five-and-dime stores and houseware departments. To use it, the fruit is rolled. The extractor, which has a sawtooth end, is then inserted by pushing and turning. The lemon is turned and squeezed and the juice and a very few seeds run out of the tubular opening. The test indicates that about the same amount of juice can be extracted from a lemon by use of this device as with the ordinary glass reamer, and the new gadget extracts fewer seeds and less pulp. The construction of the device is such that it is easily cleaned; cool, not hot, water should be used for this purpose.

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# PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

By Walter F. Grueninger

Please Note: Prices quoted do not include taxes. In the ratings AA indicates highly recommended; A, recommended; B, intermediate; C, not recommended.

## ORCHESTRA

**Barber:** *Overture to School for Scandal*. Janssen Symphony of Los Angeles under Janssen. 2 sides, Victor 11-8591. \$1. One of America's foremost young composers depicts the characters in Sheridan's comedy. Wholly delightful. Expertly played and sonorously recorded.

Interpretation AA  
Fidelity of Recording AA

**De Falla:** *La Vida Breve—Spanish Dance No. 1.* & **Shostakovich:** *Age of Gold—Polka and Russian Dance*. St. Louis Symphony Orchestra under Golschmann. 2 sides, Victor 11-8592. \$1. The colorful detail of the strongly rhythmic Spanish dance has not been captured by the engineers and the performance lacks fire. I have heard the saucy pieces overside played more expertly, too.

Interpretation B  
Fidelity of Recording B

**Franck:** *Symphony in D Minor*. London Philharmonic Orchestra under Beecham. 10 sides, Columbia Set 479. \$5.50. Beecham's glowing interpretation of this masterwork, now released in an illustrated cover album, runs a close second to Victor M840.

Interpretation A  
Fidelity of Recording A

**Gould:** *Latin American Symphonette*. Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra under Iturbi. 6 sides, Victor Set 964. \$3.50. Slick, diverting symphonic treatment of four Latin American dance forms.

Interpretation AA  
Fidelity of Recording A

**Gottschalk:** *The Banjo* & **Anderson:** *Jazz Legato and Jazz Pizzicato*. Boston Pops Orchestra under Fiedler. 2 sides, Victor 10-1089. 75c. *The Banjo* is uninteresting but the jazz pieces are exciting novelties. Quiet surfaces.

Interpretation AA  
Fidelity of Recording A

**Haydn:** *Symphony No. 103 ("Drum Roll")*. Hallé Orchestra under Heward. 6 sides, Columbia Set 547. \$3.50. One of Haydn's best symphonies. Recorded in England with a somewhat boomy bass, fewer highs than best American recordings but excellent balance between instruments. Audible surfaces with a swish on side 2. Best set of this work.

Interpretation A  
Fidelity of Recording A

**Offenbach:** *Gaité Parisienne*. London Philharmonic Orchestra under Kurtz. 4 sides, Columbia Set X115. \$2.50. Re-issued with a can-can girl cover. Selections from Offenbach's light operas arranged for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo by Manuel Rosenthal. Sparkling, light music which I have thoroughly enjoyed over the years. Of its genre, highly recommended.

Interpretation AA  
Fidelity of Recording AA

**Reusner:** *Suite No. 1* (3 sides) & **Pachelbel:** *Canon* (1 side). Arthur Fiedler Sinfonietta. Victor Set 969. \$2. Music from the 17th century. Dull is the *Suite*, played with little charm, but the *Canon* has its moments.

Interpretation B  
Fidelity of Recording B

## INSTRUMENTAL

**Bach:** *Sonata in E Minor*. Busch (violin). 2 sides, Columbia 71582. \$1. I judge the recording was made in an empty hall. Rather coarse, too. The music is not particularly engaging. Quiet surfaces. Fine performance.

Interpretation AA  
Fidelity of Recording A

**Debussy:** *En Blanc et Noir*. Bartlett and Robertson (duo-pianists). 4 sides, Columbia Set X241. \$2.50. One of Debussy's lesser works. Noisy surfaces.

Interpretation A  
Fidelity of Recording B

**Kreiser:** *Allegretto* & **Bach:** *Solfeggietto* & **Rameau:** *Tambourin*. Primrose (viola). Victor 10-1098. 75c. A delightful disc which presents three contrasting encore numbers played by the world's foremost violist.

Interpretation AA  
Fidelity of Recording AA

## VOCAL

**Bizet-Hammerstein:** *Carmen Jones*. Members of the original New York production. 12 sides, Decca Set 366. \$6.50. The novelty of the English lyrics sung by a Negro cast soon wears off but the beauty of Bizet's music lingers long. When compared to the numerous recordings by full fledged opera singers, this one seems amateurish in spots. Good surfaces.

Interpretation B  
Fidelity of Recording A

**Grenet:** *Rica Pulpa* & **Grever:** *Para que Recordar*. Ramirez (baritone). 2 sides, Victor 10-1090. 75c. A lively *pregon* and a romantic *bolero* likely to appeal to all lovers of Latin American popular songs.

Interpretation AA  
Fidelity of Recording AA

**Gretchaninoff:** *Over the Steppe* & **Rachmaninoff:** *The Harvest of Sorrow*. Kipnis (bass). 2 sides, Victor 11-8595. \$1. Concert songs sung in Russian and recorded with unusually good balance between voice and piano. Audible surfaces.

Interpretation A  
Fidelity of Recording AA

**Mozart:** *Don Giovanni—Batti Batti & Vedrai, Carino*. Sayao (soprano). 2 sides, Columbia 71577. \$1. Two choice Mozart arias which do not entirely come off here though most of the trouble lies with the sluggish orchestra. Miss Sayao is noted for her performance. Very quiet surfaces.

Interpretation A  
Fidelity of Recording AA

**Strauss:** *Die Fledermaus—Laughing Song* & **Pardavé:** *The Nightingale*. Korjus (soprano). 2 sides, Victor 11-8579. \$1. Recorded in Mexico. *The Laughing Song*, a coloratura favorite sung here in Spanish, is a welcome addition to domestic catalogues, but the musical value of the selection overside is nil. Swishing surfaces.

Interpretation A  
Fidelity of Recording A

**Concert Favorites**. Thomas (baritone). 6 sides, Victor 966. \$2.75. John Charles Thomas' gorgeous voice is not always matched by his musicianship. High recording level. Some distortion. Quiet surfaces. The songs include *Drink to Me*, *In the Gloaming*, *Mattinata*, etc.

Interpretation A  
Fidelity of Recording A





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